FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GROUP OF EIGHT MEMBERS COMMENT ON FUTURE TALKS

PY140235 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2126 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin and the self-styled Group of Eight, made up of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group, today discussed the possibility of turning the Latin American Parliament into a more effective institutional organization [word indistinct] and a necessary element for [word indistinct] continental integration.

The president discussed this and other issues related to the Central American peace efforts during a meeting with the foreign ministers in the Olivos presidential residence this afternoon. The following foreign ministers participated in the meeting: Dante Caputo of Argentina, Bernarndo Sepulveda Amor of Mexico, Simon Alberto Consalvi of Venezuela, Jorge Abadia Arias of Panama, Julio Londono Paredes of Colombia, Alan Wagner Tizon of Peru, Enrique Iglesias of Uruguay, and Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre of Brazil.

Minister Caputo, who talked with Alfonsin privately before the meeting, told journalists that the Latin American countries have not only tested their capability for tolerating problems, as in the case of Central America, but also for imagining a future of integration.

This was part of Caputo's explanation of the activities to be held by the Group of Eight in the city of San Carlos de Bariloche, where the foreign ministers will discuss an agenda that includes several integration issues. Caputo said that Latin American integration increasingly is becoming more necessary. This is not just an idealistic aspiration, he said, because this is why we are here today, to work on specific and concrete issues.

In reply to a question, Caputo said that the Group will try to see how the Latin American Parliament can be turned into a more effective institutional organization, since it is a necessary element for this integration process.

Regarding the Central American issue, Caputo said that at the current moment a desire for peace is not evident among the principal parties involved. He explained that the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups are mediators. He admitted that the Group cannot modify the desire for peace of the principal parties involved in the Central American conflict, but, he said, if the desire for peace is recovered, Contadora will be present with renewed efforts to attain peace and renegotiation.

Replying to a question on the foreign debt, Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre said that the agenda is open and that impressions on the subject will probably be exchanged. He added that the Group does not have a limited or definite objective and that, therefore, the foreign debt will probably be discussed in Bariloche.

Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda Amor acknowledged that the Bariloche meeting may open the way for a future summit of the presidents of the countries of the Group of Eight. This idea is floating in the air, he said, adding that it would be most convenient and welcome. Sepulveda said that this possible future summit should be well planned, and its objectives well specified. This subject should be analyzed with great responsibility, he said, in order to ensure that the summit would be a real success.

ALFONSIN CALLS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

PY132250 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1428 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today stated that "we need governments with a more substantial majority," because "52 percent, guys, is not enough" and because "resistance to change can be found at the extremes while we have the frivolity of the center," therefore "those of us who share the same ideas must jointly assume the responsibility of governing the country."

Alfonsin also requested that constitutional reform be debated "this year" in order to introduce the post of prime minister. He stressed that "we are advancing toward a social pact," and highlighted the efforts being made toward this goal by the workers, businessmen, and the government.

"It is necessary for us to change the government-opposition duality and the majority-minority duality for a desire for consensus that will unite all of us, or at least the great majority of us, to define Argentina's specific problem within the framework of pluralism and debate, in which all of us should be involved," he added.

Alfonsin then said that "there is the need for a system of government that contains the post of prime minister. This would oblige us to form a government with a more solid majority, that is, if we are not going to be stubborn and turn our backs on such a system."

The president made the call for constitutional reform and a social pact during a speech he made at the inauguration of the regional center of the University of Buenos Aires in San Isidro, Greater Buenos Aires. Alfonsin, who was repeatedly interrupted by applause, stressed that "with this in mind and within the current state of Argentina it is necessary to put an end to this fallacy of opposition and government. By definition, the opposition wants to assume office, and sometimes in order to take over the government the opposition carries out a systematic confrontation which definitely conspires against the development of Argentines."

"Thus, we must turn everything upside down. We must share power," he said, "we have sought to do this. People from other parties are honoring us by being members of the Executive Branch, but this idea must be based on, or at least strengthened through, the nation's fundamental values."

He added that "here nobody stays out in the cold. Here we are all working with responsibility for the future of our children. Here everyone has to be part of the government, with each of us respecting the other. We must continue a debate in which day by day we affirm that we will carry out our duty for the fatherland and our children, and clearly not by day by day cutting each others throats." [passage omitted]

COMMUNIST ADVERTISEMENT CRITICIZES POPE'S VISIT

PY100355 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (NA) -- The Communist Party of Argentina [PCA] today stated that "as was the case 5 years ago when Pope John Paul II came to say we had to resign ourselves to the colonial and imperialist encroachment of the Malvinas Islands, he now comes to preach that the Latin American foreign debt is oppressive but must be paid."

In a paid advertisement, markedly critical of the papal visit, the PCA states that it was not invited to a meeting between John Paul II and a group of politicians and that if it had been invited, "the invitation would have full of restrictions."

The PCA states that "we have not seen even a veiled admonishment by John Paul II of the bishops who, with a few exceptions, either preach resignation or are accomplices of the state terrorism that prevailed during the past military dictatorship."

The communique adds: "However, he did not spare criticism of those who actually fight for the poor and for liberation theology, which reflects a commitment to the poor."

Nevertheless, the PCA states that it "identifies with the "Catholic circles which, amid a very adverse atmosphere, are making an effort to present to John Paul II a true testimony of those who are suffering and are being exploited in our country and throughout Latin America, which depends on and is being impoverished by imperialism."

"In this regard, we have seen the exemplary attitude of the Chilean people who, under the brutal conditions of fascism, once again protested, protests that fascism sought to quell by resorting to provocations, teargassing, and shooting," the communique concludes.

FURTHER DETAILS OF DEBT NEGOTIATIONS IN U.S.

PY131855 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Apr 87

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille returned from the United States around noon yesterday, amid expectations that the government would announce the rescheduling of 30 billion (thousand million) dollars of its foreign debt either today or tomorrow.

The government is also expected to announce a new loan of around two billion dollars to permit the economy to grow by four percent this year. This loan will reportedly be repayable over 12 years with a five-year grace period while the 30 billion will fall due in 19 years with a seven-year grace period.

The interest rate will be around 7.5 percent including surcharge. Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn, who is still in New York, yesterday confirmed that it would not be as low as the rate recently obtained by Mexico.

Sourrouille's denounciations of an uncooperative attitude on the part of creditors last Friday allegedly caused the White House to pressure banks to wrap up the debt negotiations. Agreement was thus reportedly reached on the delicate issues of onlending (loans controlled directly by banks) and capitalization of the debt on the basis of one extra dollar for every dollar invested.

FORMER BODYGUARD SURRENDERS TO COURTS, ARRESTED

PY131810 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (NA) -- Federal Police have reported that former presidential bodyguard Raul Guglielminetti was arrested in Mercedes, Buenos Aires Province today. The former intelligence agent voluntarily appeared before the local court presided over by Judge Pissioni and was placed under arrest. The Argentine courts had asked the Spanish courts to extradite Guglielminetti on several charges, including forgery of documents.

BOMB EXPLODES IN FRONT OF U.S. EMBASSY

PY141734 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The mobilization sponsored by the COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation] in La Paz has resulted in four people injured. During the march called by the COB this morning, a bomb thrown at the door of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, on Colon Street near the Mercado intersection, went off. As a result of this, four workers of the National Social Security Bank who were walking by at the time were wounded. They are Jaime Aguilar, Isabel Serpa, Myriam Botelo, and Rudi Chavez, who are receiving medical treatment at Public Assistant Clinic.

Here we have some information provided by Victor Vaca, secretary general of the National Social Security Bank Workers Union:

[Begin Vaca recording] When the workers of the National Social Security Bank and workers of other sectors were participating in the march promoted by the Bolivian Workers Confederation, a bomb went off in front of, almost at the door of the U.S. Embassy. We assume it was dynamite packed with pieces of metal. The explosion injured four workers of the National Social Security Bank who were marching by. [passage omitted] [end recording]

So far, there is no official communication on the circumstances of this bomb explosion at the door of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz.

Lechin Misses Rally

PY141918 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The protest march sponsored by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] was held this morning. An effigy representing the government was burned and dynamite was set off.

The rally began at 1000 in Plaza San Francisco as scheduled. Despite the rain many workers came to the rally. Factory and construction workers, miners, university students, and road and railroad workers attended.

Before the protest march began one speaker addressed the crow, in contrast to other occasions when several people delivered speeches. Walter Delgadillo, COB secretary general, was the only speaker because the COB leaders did not want to expose the crowd to the rain falling on La Paz. Juan Lechin did not attend the rally but the COB executive board was present. The COB leaders explained that Lechin was not feeling well and that this is why he did not attend the rally.

Delgadillo delivered a strong speech explaining the proposals made by the workers. He also referred to the judicial proceedings against Lechin and then pointed out that the workers' struggle will continue. [passage omitted]

Reasons for Protest Given

PY142125 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (AFP) -- The current economic model of Bolivia will only come with deep political changes, Walter Delgadillo, secretary general of the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], said here today. Delgadillo was the only speaker during the march organized by the COB in rejection of President Victor Paz Estenssoro's administration.

The march, which was carried out simultaneously in all the cities and districts of the country, was staged to express popular rejection of the government's economic policy, the suspension of COB-government talks with the Catholic Church's mediation, and the campaign of repression against the workers and the people.

Before a crowd of 20,000 people gathered in San Francisco Square here in La Paz, Delgadillo explained that many of President Paz' advisers had participated in coups in the past, and that even former Defense Minister Fernando Valle suggested a coup during a Congress session. Despite this, Delgadillo said, the government does not flinch, but, he added, whenever a union leader asks for a change of government, he immediately is tried for subversion and other crimes.

Delgadillo's words were intended to repudiate the government for having pressed charges against COB leader Juan Lechin Oquendo, who faces a possible 3-year prison sentence, for demanding that President Paz resign and hand over his post to Congress President Julio Garret Ayllon, or to Senate President Ciro Humboldt Barrero.

The main reasons for the protest were the IMF's impositions, the current administration's subservience to Yankee imperialism, and the current authoritarian administration's policy of repression and threats.

Delgadillo also said that by allowing the importation of food and other products, the current economic policy is leading the Bolivian people to a terrible misery and is killing national industry and agriculture.

After the speech, the workers started marching down the main avenues of this capital under the attentive watch of the police, who remained waiting at strategic points, armed with weapons and tear gas. When a group of university students arrived at the U.S. Embassy downtown, the Embassy guards fired their guns in the air repeatedly, while the demonstrators threw dynamite, injuring three people. A few minutes earlier, the demonstrators burned a rag effigy of President Ronald Reagan.

Similar demonstrations were staged in other Bolivian cities, where the workers claimed that it is impossible for them to survive on 25 dollars a month, which is the minimum salary set by the national budget.

Caller Attributes Attack

PY142335 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2205 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (EFE) -- A stick of dynamite thrown at the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia this morning injured nine people. One of them is seriously wounded. The explosion occurred during a march organized by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] to protest the economic policy of the Victor Paz Estenssoro government.

Shortly after the attack, an anonymous caller told the EFE office in La Paz that the dynamite had been thrown by the organization called "Brother Julian" ["Hermano Julian"], which unsuccessfully tried to attack U.S. facilities on previous occasions. The "Brother Julian" organization appeared in Bolivia in 1985, upon the installation of Victor Paz Estenssoro, and announced the beginning of armed actions.

According to eyewitnesses, smoke began to rise from a "cone-shaped" object or a "stick" wrapped in a newspaper as student demonstrators were marching in front of the U.S. Embassy. The sources said that someone shouted: "Run, it is a bomb..." A few seconds later an explosion was heard and the group that was outside the embassy dispersed. Those injured were helped by others of the group and taken to medical centers.

COB Says March Only Beginning

PY150224 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (EFE) -- Walter Delgadillo, Secretary General of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), has stated that the great march of 15,000 people against the policy of Victor Paz Estenssoro's government is "only the beginning of popular demonstrations."

Delgadillo stated that union leaders will hold a national meeting tomorrow to make a thorough analysis of all demonstrations staged in the different districts throughout the country. He added that the COB's executive committee will plan the next actions in support of the workers' socioeconomic demands.

According to COB sources, approximately 15,000 people, including mine workers, factory workers, teachers, public employees, reporters, officials, leaders, university students, and peasants, participated in the march through the streets of La Paz. The march lasted more than 1 hour. The demonstrators chanted slogans against the government policy, against the payment of the foreign debt, and against the upcoming arrival of the U.S. troops that will participate in joint maneuvers, and demanded, among other things, salary increases and a larger budget for education.

During the rally held at San Francisco Park in downtown La Paz, Delgadillo stated that only the united action of the workers "will force the government to change its model as a whole."

The rally and the march were held within a climate of tranquillity, although the explosion of a pamphlet bomb almost caused a riot at the park. The police patrolled all access points to the park.

Moreover, the mine workers from Oruro, members of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers (FSTMB), have called for an indefinite general strike, seeking the resumption of talks with the government.

Both the COB's secretary general and the executive secretary of the FSTMB today expressed their support for union leader Juan Lechin, who has been charged with "conspiracy" due to his recent remarks against Paz Estenssoro and his proposal for government changes. COB Secretary General Walter Delgadillo stated that instead of bringing charges against Lechin, former Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle should be tried because he proposed a coup in Congress.

ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE ANTI-U.S. 'ACTIONS'

PY150053 Paris AFP in Spanish 2353 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Commander Brother Julian today told AFP that those organizations supporting the People's Libyan Republic -- Jamahiriyah -- which is led by Commander Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, will today start to take actions against offices and property of U.S. imperialism in Bolivia.

In a telephone call to AFP, Brother Julian read a communique noting that one year ago the Libyan people managed to use their weapons to repel U.S. military aggression. He added that today all forces supporting the revolution will start a direct fight against imperialism.

In conclusion, Julian said that all peoples worldwide are ready to defend the Libyan Republic against any attempt to destroy a truly popular, anti-imperialist revolution.

ARMED FORCES EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT

PY141327 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] General Gonzalo Saavedra, commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces, has told Radio Panamericana that the military institutions are totally subordinate to the current democratic process. Asked about the possibility that the Armed Forces may have some participation in the current situation, Saavedra said that there are no possibilities but that they are alert to what the president may say because he is the captain general of the Armed Forces.

Saavedra also indicated that the military high command, on 13 April, went to Government Palace to brief the president on the arrival of U.S. troops for the Joint United Forces-87 military exercises. This is what Gen Saavedra said:

[Begin Saavedra recording] The president wanted to get some information on the Joint United Forces-87 military exercises. He had to get complete information after the approval of the exercises. He received a briefing. [end recording]

LECHIN WANTS FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER TRIED

PY141510 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Juan Lechin Oquendo has requested that criminal charges be brought against former Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle. In a note to that effect filed with a trial judge, Lechin Oquendo says: Without disregarding pretrial investigations, I request that Luis Fernando Valle be brought to trial, because he is guilty of the crimes of espionage, disclosure of secrets, perjury in state business deals, attempting to instigate a military uprising to put an end to the Constitution and the government, sedition, conspiracy, attempted attacks, and other charges. The note refers to the statement by Fernando Valle, who publicly advocated a coup. It mentions the terms used by Valle, especially the term "social explosion" and its meaning.

Lechin compares the statement he made and the statement made by Valle. He says that he proposed the president's dismissal in accordance with the Constitution as opposed to Valle, who before one of the government branches said that the problem of social explosion can be solved by taking away the people's rights.

With regard to the rally sponsored by the Bolivian Labor Confederation at 1000 this morning, Lechin said that efforts must be made to not obstruct order and that ideas should be expressed with responsibility.

Going back to the Luis Fernando Valle case, Lechin said that Valle was the main person responsible for the bloody coup. He added that Valle joined CONAL [Legislative Advisory Committee] with a clear purpose in mind and that he also interfered in La Paz University by granting illegal professional titles, appointing teachers, and violating human and social rights. Lechin concluded by saying that the existing evidence is sufficient grounds to initiate criminal charges. He also mentions articles of the penal code.

SOCIALIST PARTY CRITICIZES LECHIN, GOVERNMENT

PY141550 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The Socialist Party One, through a statement read by Deputy Roger Cortes, has criticized the proposal for presidential succession made by Juan Lechin, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Confederation. The statement says that Lechin's proposal could be used by the government to justify future repressive actions against workers.

[Begin Cortes recording] We believe that the judicial proceeding against Juan Lechin Oquendo is absolutely arbitrary and out of place, but at the same time we criticize the remarks by Juan Lechin Oquendo regarding presidential succession. First of all, Lechin's proposal would not change anything because such a change would not be in the hands of popular movements -- it would only be a government reshuffle. Therefore, the labor and popular movements would have nothing to do with that change. Second and more important, Lechin's statement provides the government with the psychological environment for the implementation of the state of siege. [end recording]

Deputy Roger Cortes added that, putting aside criticism of Lechin, the Socialist Party One believes in the need to continue resisting the government's antinational policies through the appropriate use of popular forces. In order to do that, said Cortes, it is necessary to change the mechanisms for struggle, and to replace the people leading the labor movement.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRG ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY131527 Paris AFP in Spanish 1347 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Jaime Delgadillo, a member of the Special Foreign Debt Committee (CEDEX), reported today in La Paz that the FRG and Bolivian Governments have signed an agreement to renegotiate the foreign debt and that the terms are favorable to Bolivia. Delgadillo said that the renegotiated amount totals $60 million, the highest of Bolivia's commitments to EEC creditors. A 2.25-percent interest rate will apply to the $26 million debt to the FRG Government and a 6.44-percent interest rate will apply to the $34 million commercial debt. It was reported that the Bolivia-FRG agreement is a result of the renegotiating terms established at the Paris Club to handle the bilateral foreign debt.

FUEL PRICES INCREASE BY AVERAGE OF 30 PERCENT

PY150326 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0220 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The prices of gasoline and fuel alcohol have just increased over 30 percent. The price increase goes into effect at midnight. The new prices were announced tonight by the government. The last increase was implemented before carnival, almost months ago. The price of bottled gas increased 40 percent. The new prices are as follows:

Gasoline increased by 37.3 percent. That is, as of tomorrow, one liter of gasoline will cost 14.80 cruzados.

Alcohol increased 30.9 percent, therefore, one liter will cost 9.62 cruzados.

Diesel oil increased by 37.3 percent, and one liter will cost 5.45 cruzados.

Bottled gas increased 40 percent and as of tomorrow will cost 70 cruzados [for a 10-liter bottle].

PRESIDENT SARNEY POSTPONES TRIP TO INDIA, PRC

PY150141 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0255 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] President Sarney has postponed his trip to India and the PRC. This trip would have been taken in May, but according to the presidential spokesman, President Sarney has decided to remain in the country until the Constituent Assembly makes a decision about his term in office.

GUIMARAES CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR FUNARO, SARNEY

PY142045 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Constituent Assembly President Ulysses Guimaraes has said Finance Minister Dilson Funaro's prestige remains firm within the government.

Guimaraes said after a lunch with President Sarney yesterday that the Income Tax Code should be modified and that Finance Minister Dilson Funaro's prestige within the government remains firm. He also said the Democratic Alliance, which supports the government, should be strengthened. He reported that at the request of President Sarney, Minister Dilson Funaro is reviewing the income tax code. This review will favor the population. According to him, Minister Funaro returned from the United States and said some progress has been made in the difficult negotiations of the foreign debt. The IMF and other creditors have recognized that our country cannot sacrifice its economic growth. Guimaraes added that Dilson Funaro has to be supported in the management of these problems. About the talk he held with Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves, [of the Liberal Front Party], Ulysses Guimaraes said they were in complete agreement.

[Begin recording] We must support and strengthen the Democratic Alliance, because it in turn must support the government, particularly in the social commitments to the nation which call for laws and measures that have yet to be implemented. These commitments have not yet been fully discharged, and thus the Alliance must continue. [end recording]

Ulysses Guimaraes also said he and Aureliano Chaves agreed on another point: The need to support President Sarney in his effort to counter the difficulties the country is experiencing.

FINANCE MINISTER DESCRIBES TRIP AS 'POSITIVE'

PY141924 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Finance Minister Dilson Funaro has announced that the inflation rate was 14.3 percent in March. On his first day back in his office after returning from the United States, Minister Funaro briefed President Jose Sarney on the talks he held with Brazil's creditors, and with IMF and IBRD representatives. According to Funaro, the most important aspect of the negotiations was the support given by IMF director-manager Barber Conable [name and title as heard] to the Brazilian thesis that the solution to the crisis is economic growth. Funaro explains what this means for the effective negotiation of the foreign debt:

[Begin recording] After we submitted the Brazilian refinancing plan, the World Bank decided to send a mission directly to Brazil to verify the possibility of refinancing all the projects in which it participates in Brazil.

The first step was taken when we showed our plan. Now it is the World Bank's turn to answer. I believe my trip was very positive. We met representatives of the government and bankers. I showed the Brazilian plan for refinancing the debt at a meeting with five bank presidents. [end recording]

The finance minister also said the Brazilian proposal includes a refinancing of $4 billion by both the World Bank and international private banks.

TERRORISTS ATTACK MORE RADIO STATIONS, WORKERS

Break Into Radio Panamericana

PY142003 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Radio operator Valentin Candia has stated that four people last night attacked the Radio Panamericana radio station. Radio Panamericana is located across from bus stop No 14 on Jose Miguel Carreras Avenue. Heartless individuals broke into the radio station's buildings and overpowered six of its workers. Candia said that since the radio station's workers did not offer any resistance, the intruders kept shouting but did not mistreat them.

[Begin recording] [Candia] It was 2002. [Words indistinct] went to the back door so that a person who had completed his program could go out to buy something to eat.

When I opened the door, they threatened me with their guns. They wore ski masks.

[Unidentified Reporter] And they pushed you inside?

[Candia] No. They always acted in a quiet, orderly manner, without violence. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Candia added that the assailants managed to broadcast a revolutionary slogan for about 12 minutes until the broadcast was cut off by those in control at the transmitter plant.

[Begin recording] [Candia] Obviously, because they broadcast something for 5 or 10 minutes the broadcast was later cut by the transmitter plant. The only damage they caused was cutting telephone lines. They also stole a recorder from journalist Fidel Rojas and a record player needle. That was all. There was no violence at all. [end recording]

Candia also said the assailants stole a record player needle and the recorder of a journalist who covers sports events. Candia said that since everyone behaved well -- that is, when threatened by weapons they agreed to have their hands tied -- no one was injured. Candia said the attack lasted approximately 12 minutes.

[Begin recording] [Candia] [in progress] ...approximately 12 or 14 minutes. They left at about 2015. There were four of them.

[Passage indistinct] [end recording]

In conclusion, Candia said this was an effort to hinder work and press freedom. Those who want to work are risking their lives, not only those who are working at radio stations but also those working in any other profession.

Kill One at Radio Tropical

PY141353 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Apr 37

[Relay from Renca District by mobile unit No. 05]

[Text] Good morning. We are now in Renca district. As is known, some studios of Santiago radio stations -- two radio stations in Valparaiso, and Radio O'Higgins in the city of Rancagua -- were attacked last night.

Concerning these attacks, we just visited Radio Tropical, a small radio station that is also the home of the station's owner. The operation of this station has not been authorized by the electric power utility company. As Radio Tropical was being attacked last night, a former investigative policeman identified as Jorge Ortiz Vazquez tried to defend the people in the studio. However, according to eyewitnesses, Ortiz Vazquez was shot to death by three or four individuals. They had left a Peugeot car outside with the engine running.

Police sources have stated they assume the car was stolen last Sunday from taxi driver Emilio Jara Medina, who was killed in La Cisterna district.

A thorough operation is being conducted here in northern Santiago to locate the perpetrators of this treacherous crime. According to eyewitnesses, Ortiz Vazquez was shot at point-blank range.

Within a few minutes, as we head toward Santiago again, we will have more information on other radio stations that were attacked last night by extremists.

This was a report by mobile unit No 05.

POLICE DEACTIVATE BOMB IN MILITARY COURTS

PY101503 Paris AFP in Spanish 0603 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 9 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that a high-powered bomb discovered in the building housing the military courts has been deactivated.

The bomb, discovered in the offices of one of the military prosecutors, contained three clock mechanisms and 300 grams of C-4 plastic explosive.

Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Torres, the prosecutor in whose offices the bomb was found, has kept 14 members of the FPMR (Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front) in prison for 5 months. He has accused them of carrying out the failed September attack against President Augusto Pinochet. Five members of the president's escort died in the attack.

For the time being no organization has claimed credit for placing the bomb in the building, which is located across the street from the Defense Ministry and three blocks from La Moneda, the presidential palace.

SENATE CHIEF DENOUNCES CHARGES AGAINST CAVALLERINO

PY111740 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Senate Chairman Armando Villanueva del Campo has pointed out that the accusations made by the Attorney General against former General Abraham Cavallerino were hasty and untimely.

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] In view of this attack, my words are repetitive. It warrants nothing but protest, repeated protest. In 1973 when I lived in Spain, I said let us seek the path of dialogue, I am willing to hold talks. And I still believe that the doors must not be closed to dialogue. Even a stripper talks with the judges. So I reassert that the doors must not be closed on dialogue, because if we do that, we will cease to be democrats. But in view of these facts, obviously there is no way other than confrontation, and the rigid enforcement of the penal law.

[Reporter] We would like to know more about the charges that are being made against Gen Cavallerino by the attorney general.

[Villanueva] I believe that those charges are untimely and inopportune. At the time these events in question occurred, I was to travel to Brazil, but when I heard about them, I called up the President and told him, I will not travel, I will stay here with you to face whatever happens. So, I am morally entitled to say that to charge Gen Abraham Cavellerino at this time, when he has no weapon in his hands, is inopportune and untimely.

[Reporter] Is that being done to defend...

[Villanueva interrupting] Let him do that; this judgment should be respected. But in my view, one should confront someone who has weapons in his hands, and I would. When someone retreats, let us leave him alone, let us not be unmerciful with someone who has fallen. [end recording]

VILLANUEVA WILLING TO TALK TO SUBVERSIVES

PY112302 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1813 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Lima, 11 Apr (EFE) -- In view of the new wave of terrorist attacks affecting Peru, Armando Villanueva, the president of the Peruvian senate and a leader of the ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party, has reiterated to the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas his willingness to hold talks.

Following the killing of six people, two of whom were Army officers, at a restaurant in Lima on 9 April, Villanueva said that there are only two ways of combatting terrorism: to strictly enforce the law or to seek to hold talks.

Villanueva pointed out that he has been asking the Shining Path guerrillas to hold talks since 1983 but thus far, they have not shown any sign of interest.

A peace commission set up by the current APRA administration, a commission that has already been dissolved, also failed to make contact with the Shining Path guerrillas and other similar movements in Peru.

Villanueva said: "I am willing to hold talks with the subversives. The doors must not be closed to dialogue, because if we do that, we will cease to be democrats." [passage omitted]

AFP REPORTS FURTHER ON RESTAURANT BOMBING

PY100308 Paris AFP in Spanish 2258 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 9 Apr (AFP) -- One Army officer and two civilians died and 13 people, including 2 militarymen, were wounded today in the boldest and bloodiest attack launched by terrorists against members of the Armed Forces in Lima since the subversive movement started 7 years ago.

A presumed Shining Path terrorist commando today hurled three sticks of dynamite against a restaurant that had many officers and lower-ranking personnel from Fort Rimac among its patrons. Fort Rimac is a military complex located north of Lima in which the Tank Division and other major units of the Lima Garrison are headquartered.

Nearly 40 people, including many military personnel, were at the restaurant when the attack occurred at noon today. The explosion claimed the lives of Army Captain Hector Suarez (35 years old) and two unidentified civilians, a man and a woman. Thirteen people, including 2 Army majors who were taken to a military hospital, were wounded.

The restaurant, which specializes in seafood, is located in the densely populated Rimac district, approximately 100 meters from Fort Rima's gate.

The blast damaged two cars parked outside the restaurant, the restaurant itself and neighboring houses.

Following the attack, the terrorist commando -- which, according to witnesses, consisted of three men and two women -- fled through the crowded streets. While crossing a busy market, the terrorists threw other bombs, which did not cause injuries, but wreaked havoc among shop owners and customers alike.

The police said that one suspect has been arrested.

Shining Path terrorists have time and again attacked police officers and once machinegunned a group of Navy officers and employees who were waiting for a bus in a poor district on the outskirts of Lima.

This is, however, the first time the Shining Path terrorists have attacked an establishment, knowing that Army personnel were inside.

TERRORISTS DESTROY BRIDGE IN JUNIN DEPARTMENT

PY111935 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru Network in Spanish 0012 GMT 11 Apr 87

[By Reporter Denis Vargas]

[Excerpts] The terrorist attack on the Antahuaro Bridge near La Oroya, in Junin Department, has caused damage amounting to 5 million intis. [passage omitted]

[Denis Vargas Relay from Huancayo] Good-evening. The most important bridge on the Lima-La Oroya-Cerro de Pasco-Huanuco-Pucalpa road was destroyed by strong explosives, which were placed on its four metal supports. The bridge thus sank into the Mantaro River waters.

The Antahuaro Bridge, located 7 km north of the metal-producing city of La Oroya, will be closed to traffic for an indefinite period of time.

The steel, wooden, and concrete bridge was totally destroyed. The damage amounts to 5 billion soles, or 5 million intis. The traffic flow is totally paralyzed, and the central Selva region is entirely isolated. [passage omitted]

Police reports state that the bridge was sabotaged with explosives detonated by remote control. At the time of the attack, the bridge was not under police protection. [end relay] [passage omitted]

TERRORIST ATTACK DESTROYS COMMUNITY CENTER

PY111517 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1455 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (EFE) -- A bomb caused serious damage to a community center that was to have been dedicated today in a neighborhood of the Port of Chimbote, 440 km north of Lima.

The explosion, which took place at dawn today, destroyed doors, windows, and telephone booths. The community center was going to be inaugurated by Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez.

According to reports from Chimbote, which were broadcast by the local radio program "Radioprogramas del Peru," the attack was perpetrated by terrorists.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED IN TWO PROVINCES

PY110423 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0401 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government has extended the state of emergency for 60 days in the Daniel Alcides Carrion and Pasco Provinces, in Pasco Department, in the Peruvian central mountain area.

The extension of the state of emergency is justified by the proper decree that is published today in the gazette "El Peruano" because "violent actions continue to take place" in these provinces.

While the state of emergency is in force, all individual guarantees are suspended and the political-military command is in charge of controlling the area. Lima and the port of Callao are also under a state of emergency and a curfew.

In addition, 18 other provinces are under a state of emergency in the Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac Departments in southern Peru and in Huanuco Department in northern Peru. The state of emergency involves nearly 50 percent of the Peruvian population. Peru has nearly 20 million inhabitants.

PRESIDENT SAYS HUMAN RIGHTS PLEBISCITE 'A MISTAKE'

PY031419 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2037 GMT 31 Mar 87

[By Jorge Figueroa]

[Text] Montevideo, 31 Mar (EFE) -- Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today stated that if the required number of signatures is collected, a plebiscite will be held on repealing the law that has suspended the trials of military men and policemen involved in human rights violations. Nevertheless, Sanguinetti described as "a mistake" the drive for a plebiscite "because the country must look to the future."

A commission made up of writers, artists, lawyers, relatives of "missing people," and others are promoting the collection of 550,000 signatures (one fourth of the electoral registry), seeking to repeal the law that put a "full stop" to the trials of presumed human rights offenders under the military government (1973-85). The sponsors of the plebiscite have 1 year, beginning 22 December 1986, the date on which Congress approved the law, to achieve the people's support, and, according to the sponsors, more than 260,000 signatures have already been collected.

Sanguinetti said: "Uruguay has achieved an atmosphere of stability, of peace, of pacification, of tranquillity, and that must be preserved. The country must look to the future and not to the past. I believe that the plebiscite is a mistake. However, if the signatures are collected, the plebiscite will be held, because these are the rules of our democracy."

The Uruguayan president said that he harbors no doubts that the people will favor the law if a plebiscite is held. The president explained: "First, because the 'pacification law' is supported by the two leading parties -- the ruling Colorado Party and the National or "blanco" Party, the leading opposition party -- and second, because the people greatly appreciate the peaceful departure of the "de facto" government."

"The Army was militarily unscathed. We restored democracy without a single casualty, without a single person injured, without a single shot fired, and that is very important," Sanguinetti noted.

In late 1986, Congress approved, with the votes of the Blanco and the Colorado lawmakers, a law that established "a statute of limitations" against the military men and policemen presumably involved in human rights violations during the "de facto" government. According to human rights organizations, some 180 military men and policemen are involved in human rights violations.

The pope's first visit to Uruguay starts today and the human rights issue has been recalled by graffiti painted on the walls, stating "welcome John Paul II to the kingdom of the unpunished."

It was reported today that the widow of a kidnapped lawmaker, who was murdered in Buenos Aires in 1976, and four relatives of "missing people" have been invited by Nuncio Andrea de Montezembo to attend a special mass to be said by Pope John Paul II from a special rostrum. Matilde Rodriguez de Gutierrez Ruiz, the widow of the late Deputy Hector Gutierrez Ruiz and one of the principal sponsors of the plebiscite, will attend the papal mass from a place reserved for special guests near the lower part of the altar.

U.S. EMBASSY 'EXPLAINS' SENATE VOTE ON PANAMA

PA142224 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Apr 87 pp 1, 30

[Unattributed article: "U.S. Embassy Explains Senate Vote on Panama"; interview participants not identified]

[Text] The 1986 decree against drug abuse requires that President Reagan certify to the U.S. Congress that countries receiving U.S. help are offering full cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking.

After the required certification was presented to Congress on 1 March, the two chambers had 30 days during which they could reject the certification. Senators Jesse Helms and John Kerry presented three Senate Joint Resolutions proposing that Mexico's, the Bahamas', and Panama's certifications be rejected.

On 3 April (2 days after the deadline expired), the Senate indefinetely delayed the resolutions on Mexico and the Bahamas. The Senate rejected Panama's certification through an oral, nonbinding vote.

Question: What affect will this Senate action have on aid, commerce, and loans to Panama?

Answer: First, the vote was nonbinding or not valid. Second, to affect economic relations, the Decree on Antinarcotics Abuse [name of decree as published] requires a joint resolution by the two chambers of Congress. The House of Representatives has not approved that resolution. Finally, the law requires that said joint resolution be approved within 30 days of the presentation of the President's certification, which was delivered to Congress on 1 March. That term has not expired. [as published]

Question: In view of the Senate's action on Friday [3 April], why did the administration "certify" that Panama is a nation that cooperates with the United States in antinarcotic efforts?

Answer: Panama's presidential "certification" is based on the close cooperation our agencies, which are charged with enforcing laws, have exhibited. It is also based on the Panamanian Government's repression of drug production in Panama and the control of international narcotics trafficking.

For example, Panamanian cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard is outstanding. Our request for investigation and capture of Panamanian flag vessels on the high seas are guaranteed routinely and rapidly. The Panamanian authorities have cooperated with the Office of Customs and the Department of Justice in the capture of many international narcotics traffickers and in the confiscation of large amounts of drugs and chemicals used to make drugs.

Question: However, isn't money laundering a greater problem, which is much more serious than the crimes you have just mentioned?

Answer: Allow me to state that the type of cooperation that I have just mentioned is a very important part of our antinarcotics efforts.

The weakness of the Panamanian efforts against narcotics trafficking has been the area of money laundering. The Panamanian banking center has been protected by a very strict law on bank confidentiality [secreto bancario], and money laundering was not a crime until recently. This situation changed with the approval of an antinarcotics law at the end of December.

The new law stipulates that all bank transactions with funds derived from narcotics are punishable by sentences of 2 to 8 years in prison. The penalties imposed for possession of drugs have been stiffened, and the possession of more than a small amount of drugs is a crime that does not allow freedom on bail.

Much more important is the fact that the President General of the Nation [as published] is empowered to investigate and prosecute persons for narcotics crimes committed abroad, as if the crime had been committed in Panama, and he has at his disposal the bank archives to be used for this purpose.

Question: What guarantee do you have that the Panamanian Government will implement this new law?

Answer: We have received guarantees at all levels of the Panamanian Government that they have the definite intention of implementing the new drug legislation.

It would be regrettable for international narcotics control if the United States doubts this Panamanian initiative without first confirming its sincerity.

ENVOY RETURNS TO U.S., SAYS RELATIONS 'EXCELLENT'

PA141933 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Apr 87 p A4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Dominador (Kaiser) Bazan has returned to Washington to continue handling the affairs of his diplomatic mission to the White House. Before leaving, he told reporters that "relations between Panama and the United States continue to be excellent" and that the actions of Senator Helms cannot affect those relations." [quotation marks as published]

NEWSPAPER REPORT DISCUSSES U.S., CONTRA ACTIONS

PA132010 [Editorial Report] Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 13 April carries a 10-page report prepared by Guadalupe Sepulveda Dies [not further identified] entitled "The Children of Darkness." The front page shows photographs of Oliver North and Donald Regan, with the Capitol and the White House in the background, and a legend in the upper left corner that reads: "Once again, the children of darkness disguise themselves as saints to suck on our open veins and through snares, crimes, and subterfuges, try to exterminate our dark, proud, and dignified race." The second page carries a large photograph of U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, under the heading "Our Worst Enemy. Panamanians: Look at this face...he is Jesse Helms." In the introduction, the author says the report is based on real facts, and asks readers to answer her questions, stating that "the truth will come through reasoning." She then invites readers "to unveil the terrible truth that bad citizens, in connivance with recalcitrant 'Nephews of Uncle Sam,' probably Ku-Klux-Klan leaders, want to hide from you."

The following 8 pages reproduce reports from various sources such as UPI and EFE -- which had been published in local newspapers, both progovernment and opposition, such as LA PRENSA, CRITICA, LA REPUBLICA, and MATUTINO -- on the Iran-contra affair, CIA operations, and the contras' involvement in drug trafficking. A number of rhetorical questions are posed after each reproduction, incriminating the U.S. Government and the CIA in illegal, immoral actions.

NORIEGA SPEAKS ON LEADERSHIP AT MILITARY CEREMONY

PA140445 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Today, in the presence of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, the ceremonies in commemoration of the first anniversary of the noncommissioned officers school at the Rio Hato Base took place.

In Panama we should walk like winners; we must walk firmly, with confidence, and without hesitation, Gen Noriega said at the ceremonies at the Benjamin Ruiz Noncommissioned Officers' School. Addressing the select audience headed by Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, heads of military zones, cadets, and military attaches, Gen Noriega spoke for 50 minutes on the gift of leadership.

[Begin Noriega recording] In our Armed Forces, life is not a separate issue, as if we were businessmen or store owners. [sentence as heard] There is an absolute unity of all elements within the Defense Forces: it is a real, not an apparent, reality. At this moment, in this century, in this era, there is a severe crisis in the attitudes of leaders and followers and in the attitude of human society, resulting from complex economic, political, and social causes. This crisis emerges from the North and South, East and West, where there are even religious crises.

We want the members of Panamanian Defense Forces, which are developing organizationally, for you who constitute the base of this pyramid that is being built upward, to be the ones to carry the banners of victory in 1999, and also to carry your bayonets ready for the attack in defense of the fulfillment of our treaties.

This talk today is not just idle talk. It is an order of command, an executive voice that cannot lend itself to confusion, because the reason for giving orders and obeying them is the establishment of an absolute unity that will give us the hierarchy, the vital life blood, to do our duty for the fatherland. [end recording]

PRD'S ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT ANSWERS QUESTIONS

PA061756 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 2258 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Interview with Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Party; by unidentified moderator; Mario Martinez Puentes, secretary general of the Trade Union of Panamanian Journalists, and Eduardo Herrera Cedono of Radio Suave; on "With the Press Program"; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Dr Escobar Bethancourt, we would like to begin this session of questions and answers concerning speculations to the effect that as president of the PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party], you have been taking this political organization to the left, hindering the development of the center rightist group. We would like to know, how much does the left control the PRD?

[Escobar Bethancourt] Concerning this question, I may say the following: The PRD is a party that includes many sectors of our society. It includes businessmen, professionals, teachers, students, workers, peasants, etc. In other words, it is practically a cross section of Panamanian society. The PRD is a party born from Torrijism. The Torrijist movement included all national sectors in a nationalistic struggle for the recovery of our jurisdiction [over the Panama Canal] to put an end to the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaties, and to establish a termination date [as heard] for our relations with the United States, as well as to facilitate, with all sectors, national development.

Therefore, since I took over as president of the PRD, I have tried to promote the development of those various sectors. That is why you can observe that since this CEN [Central Executive Committee] was established, we have held congresses with our mass front organizations, such as the Managerial Front, the Teachers' Front, the Youth Front, the Women's Front, the Proffessionals' Front, the Trade Unions' Front; all of those fronts have held congresses. They have issued pronouncements that are political guidelines for the party.

Many meetings have been held at the regional level as well. And we are now organizing party nuclei which, despite being the smallest cells, form the backbone of our movement.

Disagreements, disputes, and differences of opinion within the party occur naturally as part of all this activity. This happens because this party, which Omar Torrijos founded, has never been led by a single person or with an authoritarian spirit. Topics are discussed freely and democratically within the party. Foreign public opinion sectors may get the impression that there is a death struggle within the party. However, broad discussions on matters of domestic or international concern take place instead.

Traditional Panamanian politics are not accustomed to this. The traditional parties have chiefs who decide what the party should do, with the members following suit. The PRD does not work that way. All our sectors participate in party decisions. We constantly call meetings of the Political Committee, which is the party's highest authority, when the directorate or congress are not in session. The Political Committee makes decisions on specific and urgent matters. The CEN then acts, based on these decisions.

As you said, there are accusations claiming that we have led the party toward the left wing or helped strengthen the party's left-wing elements.

Torrijos' ideas at the domestic level emphasize a policy of national development based on social justice and on resolving the problems of the country's poorer sectors. At the international level, they uphold a straightforward struggle for the full exercise of sovereignty and jurisdiction, and for our country's right to -- as Torrijos said -- make its own friends and enemies. The consolidation of this policy has been termed a strengthening of the left wing. In his day, Torrijos and Torrijism were accused of being left-wing, communist, socialist. However, those accusations are made by reactionary Panamanian sectors which are unable to evolve in step with Panama and the world's political development, which in turn constantly demands a change of structures. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] It has been said that the revolutionary process led by Gen Torrijos has disappeared, and that the traditional families, or the so-called oligarchy of whites of Spanish background, are exercising political power again. What does the PRD believe?

[Bethancourt] The revolutionary process has not disappeared. The system of political party rule was restored at the initiative of Gen Torrijos so that political debate would include all national sectors. No one sector should be excluded from the political scene. This includes peasants, workers, and whites of Spanish background. The conspicuous participation of representatives of those families in politics does not imply the disappearance of Torrijism. It simply means that we have entered a new phase, in which all sectors participate. This was promoted by Torrijism.

On whether these families are exercising a predominant political role, I believe that this is not the case. Many of the decisions the government makes are the product of a censensus of the various sectors -- including that group of families -- which make up the ruling coalition. Many times the measures are congruent with our principles or program. Other times they are incongruent with them. However, the primary aim has been to prevent our country from entering struggles or wars like those taking place in Central America, which result from the exclusion of social or economic groups from national political struggles.

[Martinez Puentes] Twelve years after the turnover of the Panama Canal to Panama, the PRD and the revolutionary process has been accused of not struggling to ensure or of not demanding that the Americans abide by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. As one of the treaties' leading figures and negotiators, how would you answer the accusations that a treaty subservient to U.S. interests and one that did not fulfill the aspirations of the Panamanians was signed?

[Bethancourt] The United States does not abide by the treaties because to do so would benefit Panama enormously. The United States drafted law 96-70, or the Murphy Act, to violate the treaties. If the treaties had not been favorable to Panama they would have had no need to create a law to violate them. When the Hay-Bureau Varilla Treaty was in effect, the United States did not draft any law for the implementation of the treaty. That treaty favored the United States. All the United States did was implement its provisions.

Regarding the other part of your question, I agree that there has been a great deal of negligence since the Torrijos-Carter Treaties were signed. We are all responsible for this. It lies in the failure to constantly and firmly demand compliance with those treaties.

Through our party's professional front, the party has conducted studies which are now being drafted as part of a bill to be introduced in the legislature. It will strive for better utilization of the areas returned to Panama. The PRD is thus attempting to recover its role as a follower of Torrijism.

Moreover, we have been insisting at the party and government level that the country's primary political and nationalistic struggle is to exert pressure locally and internationally to obtain a repeal of U.S. law 96-70 and compliance with the canal treaties. We are also attempting to unite our people so that the treaties' provisions on the civlian and military withdrawal from Panama and the turnover of the canal will not be violated at the end of the century, as the United States is planning to do. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Regarding the PRD's participation in the government, what is your view on President Delvalle's administration? What is the country's short-term political future in light of the upcoming elections and in the framework of the role that the Defense Forces play in our country.

[Bethancourt] The party's relations with President Delvalle have been very harmonious. As president of the PRD, my relations with President Delvalle have been very good. There have been disagreements on the focus given to various problems. However, President Delvalle listens to our party's opinions and attempts to adjust his administration to the PRD proposals he considers correct.

Regarding the Defense Forces, I believe that the opposition parties try to generate steam by attacking the Defense Forces unjustly and disloyally. The Defense forces, in addition to showing much professionalism and proving that they can meet their responsibilities, are, as a military institution, guarantors of stability at the domestic level and defenders of our sovereignty.

On the 1989 elections, the PRD will participate in those elections, possibly as part of a coalition, as long as the PRD, as a majority party, holds the presidential candidacy on the ticket. [passage omitted]

GUERRILLA CLASHES ON COSTA RICAN BORDER REPORTED

PA091431 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 8 Apr 87 pp 1, 30

[By correspondent San Mitcheltree]

[Text] San Jose, 7 Apr -- Confusing reports have been arriving in this capital from the Atlantic side of the border with the Republic of Panama concerning armed encounters with guerrilla fighters of unknown nationality and members of that country's National Guard that have resulted in large numbers of casualties on both sides.

Other reports affirm that the guerrillas are made up of Costa Rican citizens who are establishing a "free territory" to fight both the Costa Rican and the Panamanian authorities.

One way or another, the truth is that the reports seem to confirm that in the past 2 weeks there have been several clashes between guerrillas of an alleged column called Dr Spadafora and Panamanian National Guard [as published] members.

The clashes have allegedly taken place in a hilly dense jungle zone near the Yorkin River, which is a tributary of the large Sixaola River, in an area bordering the two countries. The reports reaching this city state that the guerrillas claim to have inflicted at least 10 casualties on the "enemy," but have not specified whether these are dead or only wounded.

All attempts to confirm these reports by telephone have been futile. In Panama, neither newspapers nor radio stations seem to have heard about the incidents, which appears to indicate that the facts are being kept secret.

BRIEFS

PAKISTANI ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- His Excellency Mohammad Abu Fazl, Pakistan's new ambassador to Panama, has presented his credentials to Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle. Mr Fazl had been his country's ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal since 1982. [Excerpt] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Apr 87 p 6 PA]

EL SALVADOR

FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GIVES NEW CONFERENCE

LD140929 Hamburg DPA in German 2325 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpts] San Salvador (DPA) -- Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, at the end of his Latin America trip in San Salvador on Monday, emphatically supported the peace efforts in this region. On the final stage of his talks in Venezuela, Costa Rica, and El Salvador, Genscher handed over a personal message from Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl to State President Jose Napoleon Duarte, and predicted steadily closer cooperation between the European Community and the Central American states.

At a joint news conference with Duarte, Genscher urged social justice, as he has done in the other states. His hope that the next Central American summit conference in Esquipulas, Guatemala, will be a success was apparently not fully shared by Duarte. [passage omitted]

During his (Genscher's) 5-hour stay, which was backed up by a big security presence, Genscher visited the Benjamin Bloom Childrens Hospital which was destroyed in the disastrous earthquake last October. The FRG has provided DM 30 million for rebuilding.

Both this humanitarian aid and the virtually tangible prestige of FRG foreign policy, which has received broad and popular consent in Central America, has turned Genscher's visit to the three Latin American countries into an unqualified success. Genscher left for Bonn the same afternoon, with a brief stopover in Washington.

Observers Say Visit Too Short

PA141650 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher came here, he saw, and he left, according to Salvadoran political observers, who regret the little time the FRG official scheduled for his San Salvador visit. The observers add the little time he spent here did not allow him to get a clear picture of what is happening in our country.

As for the humanitarian aspect, the Salvadorans must be very grateful for the FRG willingness to help in the reconstruction of a children's hospital destroyed by the earthquake, the observers add. Accompanied by Salvadoran Health Minister Benjamin Valdez, Minister Genscher personally visited the children at the Benjamin Bloom Hospital and learned of the precarious conditions in which the children are being taken care of. He also saw the condition of the building. The human picture he saw moved him to announce that public bids will be taken in the FRG in order to determine which company will be entrusted with rebuilding the hospital damaged by the 10 October earthquake. The assistance will amount to approximately $16.5 million.

On the political side, it is believed that one meeting with the government and church is not enough for getting an idea of what is happening in El Salvador. According to Salvadoran observers, Central America is experiencing a very difficult situation, and the Contadora and Support Groups have been conducting very sincere peace efforts in the region for many years. A peace initiative has been blocked on many occasions, even using the very same Central American governments.

During the last leg of his tour, Genscher delivered to President Duarte a personal message from Chancellor Helmut Kohl in which the latter forecasts greater cooperation by the EEC with El Salvador. The Salvadoran analysts feel the EEC must reexamine the internal political situation of the Central American countries -- particularly El Salvador, where far from heading toward a resolution, there is a warlike conflict that seems to be worsening while the popularity of the government's party is wearing out.

The Salvadorans regret Genscher did not visit Nicaragua, because any European rapprochement toward Central America that ignores the Sandinist regime falls into the same category of the United States, which seeks to force a sovereign state to change its policies or internal situation even if it is evident the situation does not stem from structural injustices. Such is the case in El Salvador, according to academic institutions such as the Central American University or the National University.

Independent from these criteria, the visit by an FRG foreign minister to EL Salvador is very important within the framework of bilateral relations.

ARMED FORCES REJECT 'BIASED ACCUSATIONS'

PA122014 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Coprefa communique issued in San Salvador on 10 April]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces, aware of their responsibility to the Salvadoran people, must state that:

1. On 8 April 1987, a recently created group published several biased accusations that jeopardized national security.

2. The Armed Forces Joint General Staff, following the guidelines of the institution, has maintained a policy of rapprochement with the country's sectors.

3. In line with this same policy, the chief of the Joint General Staff invited members of this recently created group to a meeting to see if they had the ability to offer solutions to the conflict.

The representatives of this group avoided the patriotic commitment that all Salvadorans have to help solve our crisis. On the contrary, they are trying to use this moment to gain political benefits from problems that, because of their seriousness, concern the country's security.

In view of this situation, the Armed Forces reject the insults against the institution, and reiterate its decision to continue making progress in the building of democracy and to talk with all the country's sectors that want to make constructive suggestions to solve the conflict.

In conclusion, the Armed Forces regret having to make this explanation and reaffirms its decision not to argue with groups interested in destabilizing the democratic process.

San Salvador, 10 April 1987

PCN ENDS STRIKE: ARENA, PAISA PROTEST

PA110449 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] National Conciliation Party, PCN, deputies today ended their parliamentary strike. This provoked the immediate walk-out of representatives of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party] from the congressional building.

After having maintained a parliamentary strike for 3 months and 4 days, the PCN deputies ended it. This has caused an angry reaction from other opposition deputies. The withdrawal by the deputies came as an immediate reaction after reforms to the electoral code were approved, without going through any formal proceedings, by 42 votes, including PCN votes. This was the first voting by the PCN in today's parliamentary session and represented the end of the opposition's silence.

Following the partial resolution of the strike, deputy [name indistinct] and the president of the Legislative Assembly, Guillermo Guevara Lacayo, called for the unity of all sectors to demonstrate there is the political will to safeguard the democratic process and better standards of living for Salvadorans. The conclusion of this plenary session marked the beginning of the vacation period for the deputies.

The parliamentary strike has partially ended, and although there is no information yet on what position the deputies still on strike will adopt in the next few days, at least it can be reported that a significant chapter in parliamentary life has ended.

GUATEMALA

MEXICAN PRESIDENT ADDRESSES CONGRESS 9 APR

PA140405 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Apr 87 p 2

[Speech by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid at the Guatemalan Congress in Guatemala City on 9 April]

[Text] I thank you for inviting me to speak to this people's assembly, which reflects the wishes an democratic expressions of the Guatemalan people. This warm and hospitable welcome confirms and prolongs the sincere friendship and respect between both countries. Here we find a brotherhood based on great social similarities, deeply rooted historical traditions, and rich cultural similarities.

Guatemala and Mexico have sought the propitious signs of their destiny and the bases for a spiritual fatherland, such as the ones described by Miguel Angel Asturias, which not only define the social personality of each country but also ensure the values in which its hopes for progress, social justice, and sovereignty are based.

A congress must reflect the public life of each country, the richness of its institutions, and the strength of the political relations in an authentic civil government.

For those of us who represent Mexico today, it is a great pleasure to speak to this assembly, which is open to all currents of thought. We must see it as a firm and solid bastion of Guatemalan democracy. We appreciate the value and the nationalist conviction of this legislative body. We acknowledge its firm commitment to enrich the democratic heritage of the Guatemalan people in view of today's complex problems, which are the principal challenges for a just, harmonious, and balanced development.

The political evolution of our peoples has been a difficult one. With great sacrifice, they held forums to debate their destinies and drafted the instruments regulating their social organizations. Truly, law, the exercise of sovereignty, and the initiatives guaranteeing political dialogue have been forged by the people's intense struggles.

In Mexico's case, the power of the Constitution was born in the revolutionary actions of a great majority who struggled to topple an unjust regime and introduce social changes through a new law both to meet long-deferred people's demands and outline our national plan. We reassert democracy in political pluralism, which ensures, favors, and legitimizes the constant transformation of society. Because of its constitutional origin, this process is a mandate that underlines the Republic's vital aspirations and broadens the state's national basis through the community's participation, not only in the specific governmental tasks, but mainly in the struture of development, the values that determine it, and the community's unresctricted power to watch over its essential liberties.

The institution created under the protection of a democratic system favor the formation of a genuine community of interests and foster the modernization of nations. These institutions let ideas circulate freely, permit the objective perception of surrounding realities, and enrich society. The current world demands the existence of regimes based on the people's will as an ethical and operational principle. Democracy lives and functions when it can ensure freeflowing thoughts, when the people's concerns become a public debate, and, above all, when governing for the people becomes governing with the people. The progress of our countries demands plural participation in the national plan, where dissidents can foresake their useless rancor and replace it with constructive criticism. The economic growth tasks are not exclusive of any government sector. We understand general political, economic, and spirtual development to be a major task that requires the broadest cooperation of civilian society and the state. Beyond disagreements, the crisis compels us to form action fronts to preserve institutions and the diversities which will give us an image of our own and an outlook of our own. All Latin America faces these needs.

The region suffers structural problems that check its evolution toward modernization. Obsolete industry usually corresponds to agrarian stagnation. To insufficient welfare services we must add scant productivity of the economic system, which limits the resources necessary to cope with the inevitable demands of our peoples. It is essential to direct the action of the continent toward collective stability as a complement to the great national modernization effort in every field. It is urgent to aim our integration efforts at a true regional security policy removed from military and strategic views which, far from aiding our unity, have favored division and confrontation.

Our security must depend on the reaffirmation of common goals. We share the goals of promoting economic growth with a just and equitable distribution of the benefits of this growth. We must strenghten the political participation of all sectors. We must attain technological indepenedence and strengthen our cultural autonomy.

Notwithstanding, we must recognize the peculiarities and differences that emphasize our national characteristics. We must stress respect for the sovereign will of people to choose the government they want as the supreme expression of the political right to self-determination. The integration of Latin America must stem from our historical background. The unity of all must not eliminate the independence or personality of each country. Regarding this, we are facing a dual challenge: the need for individual reaffirmation and the need to reduce the vulnerability of each state through joint efforts.

In this task, governments must take the initiative. However, integration is a greater demand that involves, in all its variety and wealth, the cooperation and drive of the forces representing our nations.

The Latin American Parliament, whose regular gathering is part of our political agenda, can and must play an important role. It is aimed at turning into a reality the dream of a region that is not only united regarding ideals but also regarding direct and specific actions, which are within our possibilities and in line with the dimension of our resources. Let us make this dream feasible with our work and the certainty we are acting with the conscientious and deliberate intention to achieve unity.

No one should ignore that the unit of the Latin American people is being achieved almost two centuries after the fervent desire to create a truly democratic homeland. It is the homeland of Bolivar, Jaurez, and Marti; of our ancestral struggles to reclaim history and achieve a free destiny without bindings.

However, to achieve that, we need to define our objectives and avoid being carried away by enthusiasm. The Latin American Parliament calls for perseverance and setting our sights on the future without any delays. It demands we not confuse rhetoric and good intentions with the functional base of efficiency.

Unity is an irrevocable objective. We must make it our political instrument par excellence. Only in this way will we be able to unite the values of each people and all societies. We possess a personality of our own, but we would lose it if we allow people to continue to falsely believe regional unity is unthinkable. That argument, far from leading us to a natural cohesion, would lead to a denial of the wealth of our national idiosyncracies and our capacity to accept and respect the distinctive characteristics of other political cultures.

In regional integration forums we will insist on the proper use of existing political capital. It is indispensable that we strengthen coordination, increase the level of political exchanges, and promote collective measures. We must not isolate the participation of Latin America or confine that participation to the discussion of exclusively domestic issues. Its basic problems are rooted in the broadest realities of world nations. Therefore, our governments must focus on their affinities and act in consensus.

Let us admit that Latin America's concerted effort process is the basis for an authentic community of nations. Our relations must focus on our affinities and clearly give them the priority they deserve. This is our unavoidable responsibility. If we fail to fulfill it, we should not be surprised when others usurp our resources and subject the heritage of Latin American people to their plans.

As the leader of a republic that is so closely linked to Central America, I cannot fail to comment on the complex conflicts afflicting the region and on the Mexican conviction that this crisis will only be resolved when differences are settled through peaceful methods while scrupulously respecting nonintervention and self-determination of peoples. I am not only fulfilling a task assigned to Contadora Group countries, but above all, an imperious commitment linked to the present and future of the Mexican people.

The legitimate interest of the people in the region and the fate of Latin America are at stake in the Central American crisis. The objective is to reaffirm and consolidate the validity of our political culture, the basic rights of international public order, and the principles of independence and sovereignty of the people.

In Mexico we acknowledge President Vinicio Cerezo's concern for such an important issue. We support his valuable initiatives to find political solutions to conflicts, because they seek to shelter Guatemala from conflict and preserve the difficult balance of an effective and permanent peace in the region, which is of equal concern to all five countries.

The legislative branches, and particularly a Central American parliament, can effectively help ward off the dangers and irrationality of a regional confrontation. In this forum, the clamor for dialogue gains greater significance not only because it involves the very defense of its moral authority, but because it broadens and multiplies without exception the voice of Latin American people who are demanding together with their Guatemalan brothers the inherent right to live in peace.

Ladies and gentlemen: Guatemala and Mexico have all the necessary tools to enrich their fruitful relations. We will work even harder on priority issues. The border issue, economic cooperation involving all areas of the two countries, social aspects of migration, rapprochement, reciprocal study of our two cultures, and the political efforts of our peoples toward modernization are topics we must discuss with a clearly constructive spirit. Also, the foreign debt, search for a just international order, the economic crisis, and the nuclear threat demand a joint analysis, concerted measures, and unequivocal determination of our nations to seek an integrated Latin America.

Today in Guatemala two dear countries can show that the unity of nations on the continent starts with the will to consolidate the work of its inhabitants and mainly on the reaffirmation of common roots, which is the base of the American fatherland.

This is the message of the Mexican people I bring with my personal gratitude to the illustrious representatives of the Guatemalan people. The action of your fatherland building a democracy encourages the Mexicans. Thank you. [applause]

Cerezo Replies to Statements

PA141808 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Apr 87 pp 1a, 18a

[Report by special correspondents R. Riva Palacio and S. Martinez]

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 8 Apr -- Mexico and Guatemala "have a common destiny to strengthen the efforts for peace, dialogue, and agreement needed in all Central American countries," Guatemalan President Cerezo said in reply to statements made by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid during the official reception at the Guatemalan National Palace for President de la Madrid's official visit, which began today.

"We go along with" that goal, Cerezo said, "because we also want to show unity with other sister nations of the Central American region and the world in general that are also seeking peace, solidarity, and democracy."

Cerezo described De la Madrid's visit as "a support for our decision to build the society we want to build" through a process of consolidation of freedom, of legal state, respect for human rights, and respect for another world "in which we are living at present [as published]."

The Guatemalan president was very grateful for this meeting with the Mexican people and government, "which has a profound historical meaning." He stressed that like the Mexican people, the Guatemalan people "are determined to overcome all obstacles in order to attain the historical goal it set for itself." [passage omitted]

Cerezo added that in view of the example given by Mexico and the attitude of other democratic nations of the world, "we decided to seek our own destiny, follow our own path. Instead of continuing to complain about past wounds, we decided to use the experience we have to build our future." [passage omitted]

Today at noon, Cerezo told EXCELSIOR that the talks with Mexican President de la Madrid were heading toward a very positive completion on Friday. The joint communique the two presidents will sign will include statements regarding the refugee situation.

Today De la Madrid agreed to the Guatemalan request of carrying out the repatriation of Guatemalan refugees in Mexico more slowly, because of the lack of infrastructure in the country and the inability to offer them houses, work, and other services.

During the bilateral talks, Cerezo stressed the struggle for democracy his country has initiated, and explained some of the difficulties he has had to face because of the inertia inherited from the times of the dictatorships. [passage omitted]

Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said the Mexican president's visit to Guatemala "basically" dealt with bilateral issues and plans for cooperation between the two countries, which were born with Cerezo's presidential inauguration, after which the two presidents established "a particularly friendly and cordial relationship."

This afternoon Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinones said they also informed the two presidents of the goals achieved during Cerezo's visit to Mexico last June. They informed the presidents about "what was obtained and achieved." Quinones added: There is a very long list of things that have been achieved." [passage omitted]

Cerezo briefly added that in addition to its full support for the Contadora Group, Guatemala is willing to support all efforts for Latin American unity. [passage omitted]

HONDURAS

OFFICER DENIES OLANCHO CAMP USED FOR CONTRAS

PA141857 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Report by Javier Gavino Villalobos]

[Text] Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, public relations director of the Honduran Armed Forces, has spoken to reporters about a rumor that a camp is being built in Olancho to train the Nicaraguan contras.

[Begin recording] [Suarez] We have been saying the center being built in the Olancho area is for the training of recruits. We have been saying this ever since this question was asked, or at least since I came to this post. I have never concealed the fact that it is a new military unit training Honduran military personnel. It will not be used for any type of training of foreign military personnel. What happens is that [words indistinct] the Armed Forces, because of the broad freedom of information that exists in Honduras, is used to distort and confuse things so there will be doubts about the official information issued by the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] Is it true this landing strip cost $11 million supplied by the United States?

[Suarez] That is correct. The construction of that center, like others, has received the support of the United States. However, it is under Honduran command, the same as any other unit; and is designed for the quick training of recruits. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES INVESTIGATE SALVADORAN INTRUSION

PA141540 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1322 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Panama City, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE Central Office) -- The Honduran Armed Forces stated they will present an official protest to the Salvadoran Government today if it is proven the Salvadoran Army and the guerrillas violated Honduran territory.

The Salvadoran Army and guerrillas entered Honduras early Sunday morning after a fierce clash that left 3 dead and 12 wounded soldiers, according to a report from Honduran attorney Manuel Anchecta, an eyewitness of the incident.

The Salvadoran rebels attacked the El Poy border post in northern Chalatenango Department on the border with Honduras but "they were unable to obtain the objective they sought," General Adolfo Blandon, chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, said. The Salvadoran military chief said yesterday that the FMLN staged a heavy attack but did not achieve its desired objective. Gen Blandon said the FMLN sustained two dead while the Army sustained two dead and one wounded. [passage omitted]

On their part, the Honduran Armed Forces denied reports that Salvadoran soldiers and guerrillas has entered Honduran territory after the armed clash between the Salvadoran rebels and Army. Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, chief of the military press office, told ACAN-EFE that what occurred was a clash between Salvadoran guerrillas and soldiers when the rebels tried to seize the border post. He also said that according to information from western Honduras, the Salvadoran Army's 4th Infantry Brigade arrived at the border post and took control of the situation. "After the incident, a Salvadoran Air Force helicopter overflew the area inside Salvadoran territory but did not enter Honduras," the Honduran officer added. He said a platoon of the 12th Infantry Battalion of southern Honduras carried out a reconnaissance mission in the area of El Poy, Honduras, but did not find any evidence that troops and rebels violated Honduran territory.

It was reported that the El Poy customs post was guarded by the Treasury Police at the time of the guerrilla attack.

IDENTITY OF CAPTURED SOLDIERS NOT KNOWN

PA140130 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Armed Forces stated today they do not know the identity of the two Honduran soldiers who were captured by the Nicaraguan EPS.

The Honduran soldiers were captured on the northern border with Nicaragua, according to a report by a Nicaraguan state radio station that cited official sources, but made no mention of the date the action took place. There was also no mention of where the soldiers were captured, their identity, rank, or the unit they belong to.

Colonel Manuel Enrique Flores Benavides, press director of the Honduran Armed Forces, told ACAN-EFE that all he knows is that his government is negotiating with Nicaragua for the release of several prisoners, mostly fishermen. He added that tomorrow, Tuesday, investigations will begin on the capture of the two Honduran soldiers. A spokesman for the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa said that during the second half of March the Nicaraguan Government informed the Honduran foreign secretary's office about the capture of two soldiers who belong to the 5th Infantry Battalion. The soldiers were captured in Nicaraguan territory, the source noted, without providing their names or date they were captured.

The 5th Infantry Battalion operates in the Mosquitia region, Gracias a Dios Department, in eastern Honduras, on the Atlantic side. This department shares its border with Nicaragua.

The two Honduran soldiers will be presented to the press at the auditorium of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, in Managua, according to reports from the Nicaraguan capital.

SANDINIST TROOPS REPORTEDLY ATTACK BORDER

PA111258 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1213 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Today at dawn, Sandinist forces attacked Honduran positions with rifle fire at the Boca Negra River, Choluteca Department, 151 km from Tegucigalpa. Residents in that sector told journalists that new clashes between the two armies are feared, as occurred last year during this season.

It was also learned that some hours later, the Honduran Armed Forces deployed troops and artillery equipment to that sector. There have been rumors in Tegucigalpa during the past few days on possible clashes between Honduras and Nicaraguans during Holy Week, as occurred in 1986 during Lent.

'PRESUMED' LEFTIST GUERRILLA DEPARTS FOR MEXICO

PA130147 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1927 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran psychologist Doris Rosibel Benavidez Torrius, whom police have charged with being a member of a leftist terrorist group, left today for Mexico, the country which has offered her political asylum.

Benavidez arrived at the Tegucigalpa international airport in a Mexican Embassy vehicle. The vehicle took her to the steps of a Honduras Air Service, SAHSA, plane which makes regular flights to Mexico. Reporters were not able to interview the presumed guerrilla. She is believed to have been in the hands of the San Pedro Sula secret police for the past 3 weeks, because eyewitnesses said they were present when she was arrested.

The police denied they had Rosibel. This was confirmed by Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights. Acting on instructions of the Supreme Court of Justice, Custodio visited police headquarters, but was unable to find the alleged guerrilla. [passage omitted]

'BAYARDO PAGUADA' MOVEMENT CLAIMS CREDIT FOR BOMB

PA102059 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2012 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A leftist movement called "Bayardo Paguada" condemned the military presence of the United States and of the Nicaraguan "contras" in Honduras by claiming credit for the explosion of a bomb in Tegucigalpa.

A spokesman for the group read a brief communique over the two main radio networks in Tegucigalpa, warning that more terrorist actions such as the one this morning will continue "until Honduras has been liberated from U.S. imperialism."

The bomb was hurled from a moving vehicle. It exploded at 1035 (1435 GMT) on the ground floor of a Tegucigalpa store about 200 meters from Central Park. According to preliminary reports, the bomb may have been a fragmentation grenade, one of the police officers conducting the investigations told ACAN-EFE.

A person walking on the sidewalk was slightly wounded; very little damage was done inside the building. Police said they knew nothing about the "Bayardo Paguada" movement.

NICARAGUA

COMMUNIST LEADERS VIEW USSR DEMOCRATIZATION

PA142154 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Ariel Bravo Lorio, leader of the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCdeN] said no doors will be closed to journalists in the USSR. He made that statement while commenting on the democratization movement initiated in the USSR by current leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The PCdeN feels the democratic reforms promoted by Gorbachev are positive, contrasting with other Nicaraguan Marxist sectors that have described the current Soviet phenomenon as a step backward and a diversion.

In a statement for "The Awakening" newscast, Isidro Tellez, a leader of the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party said what the USSR was doing was giving breathing space to capitalism in the USSR.

PCdeN leader Ariel Bravo Lorio has a totally different viewpoint regarding the phenomenon which has been called renovation, transparency, openness. Ariel Bravo feels the idea is to rectify past mistakes. [passage omitted]

BARRICADA COMMENTS ON CONTRA SITUATION

PA150052 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Apr 87 p 3

[By Gregorio Selser]

[Text] Before the "Iran Contragate" scandal broke the minions of Elliott Abrams and the CIA had been announcing that in early 1987 an army of no less than 20,000 men would be operating inside Nicaragua, and that by July this figure would have increased to 30,000 men, most of them "peasants."

The use of the term "peasants" was used by the psychological warfare experts in the Pentagon, in an attempt to cancel the sorry evidence -- of which the U.S. Congress was fully aware -- that most of the mercenary army officers and non-commissioned officers, especially those grouped around the FDN, came from the ranks of the former Somozist National Guard or were lumpen recruits, only a meager few were indeed Nicaraguan peasants.

Thus, there were already 20,000 "peasants" ready to fight for their fatherland, as "freedom fighters." [sentence as published] The most recent official reports of the Managua government have stated that the true figure, including those infiltrated into Nicaraguan territory and those resting, waiting, or in training in Honduras, lies somewhere between 6,000 and 7,000 men.

This exaggeration of the figures, aside from fulfilling a propaganda need to simulate the existence of a significant military force made up of Nicaraguan peasants, fulfills the need to explain the urgent requests for money from U.S. taxpayers. This includes the $40 million that Reagan insists must be granted without delay.

Reagan also wants Congress to approve for fiscal year 1988 -- starting October 1 -- $105 million. Meanwhile, rivers of mud are flowing, dislodged by the revelations on how those millions and many other millions -- both from official sources and "private donors" (including the Sultan of Brunei, the Saudi Arabian monarchy, and the Moon sect), as wella s from Israel's gains from its sale of arms to Iran -- were handled by arms traffickers and industrial barons such as Generals Richard Secord and John Singlaub, and simple merchants such as Albert Hakim, Adnan Khashoggi, and Manucher Ghorbanifar, in cahoots with their Israeli counterparts who were linked to the Tel Aviv government.

This is too much money, even for Nicaraguans who had been rich men since the days of Somoza. Men such as Aristides Sanchez and Adolfo Calero Portocarrero. The struggles over who directs and controls the contra army backed by Washington, as well as the wolf fights [peleas de lobos] mentioned once in a while by the U.S. news media, are based on the thirst for political power (they are directed at the time when Reagan succeeds in overthrowing the Sandinists and calls them [not further identified] in as replacements), and on the desire to enjoy the money now, just as is being done by those who are receiving the magnificent share of FDN receives.

Another backdrop of the battle being waged at the top is the ongoing preeminence of the former Somozist guardsmen, headed by former Colonel Enrique Bermudez, an unchanging reality since the real fire power and power to act that concerns the Reagan administration is in the hands of that military police body. This body was the dynastys pillar that was defeated on 19 July 1979.

In the final phase of that battle, the regular army had grown to approximately 30,000 troops with the forced recruitment of approximately 5,000 peasants (as in all of Central America, the members of local armies are, by and large, peasants). Of that mass, the officers at their various levels may add approximately 1,000 troops. Of these, approximately 600 succeeded in fleeing to Honduras, El Salvador, or Guatemala, and -- those who had money -- to Miami and San Francisco. Perhaps 1,500, including noncommissioned officers and soldiers, took refuge in various embassies, or abandoned the country. Approximately 15,000 hid throughout the territory and approximately 4,000 of these were found, imprisoned, and tried.

Another undetermined number of troops turned themselves in voluntarily under the amnesty law or emigrated to Costa Rica, Venezuela, and the United States. In these cases, which we estimate at several thousand, their "surrendering of rebel ways" ["desalzamiento"] is considered definite.

In this summary we must also include about 2,000 officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who died in combat in the last phase of the war between 1978 and 1979. The remainder of the defunct National Guard, which chose to reunify under Bermudez, is estimated at between 600 and 1,000 men.

This force of recalcitrant Somozists was not necessarily made up of high-ranking officers, except in such cases as Bermudez himself; Major Ernesto Matamoros, a doctor; and Air Force Colonel Juan Gomez. The rest were sergeants and first and second lieutenants, most of whom were promoted on their "merits" during the contras conception in 1982, which was when they -- sponsored by the CIA, which also paid for their training by so-called "military advisers" from Argentina -- began to assume their identity.

Today they are subcommanders or commanders of bands or "task groups"; what they have in common, above all, is the ideology suckled from the teats of the Somozist guard, plus the reinforcement they received from U.S. Army instruction manuals and the notorious terrorist operations manual. This is the army which, headed by Calero, Bermudez, and other Somozist figures, is waiting for Reagan to pave the way with a direct invasion of Nicaragua.

ARCE VIEWS 'SOLID SHIELD' U.S. MANEUVERS

PA132207 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] Commander of the Sandinist Revolution Bayardo Arce gave an exclusive interview to LA PRENSA in which he stated that the joint military maneuvers the U.S. Army has planned with different armies of Central America and the Caribbean for late April and early May are being carried out to design the strategy for a possible invasion of Nicaragua.

The joint exercises, called "Solid Shield", will mobilize troops from Florida, Guantanamo, and the Panama Canal, together with the U.S. fleet in the Caribbean and detachmens in other countries of the region, the Sandinist commander said.

The exercises will involve some 45,000 U.S. soldiers and approximately 9,000 more soldiers, from Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, and various Caribbean nations.

The statements of the vice coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission were made during a brief stopover in our country on Saturday, on his way back to Nicaragua after attending a political meeting in Italy. Thus, Bayardo Arce contradicts the statements made by most of the high-ranking military of Central America and Panama who have said these military maneuvers are not intended to plan a military intervention into Nicaragua.

Commander Bayardo Arce explained that these maneuvers are centered around Honduras and will be the largest-ever military maneuvers to be held in the area. For the Sandinist leader this represents a serious threat, not only for the Managua government, but for the region's peace and security.

Arce pointed out that these exercises "are based on the premise of the United States entering into a war in Central America against Nicaragua." For this purpose they will move troops from their general headquarters in Florida and the military bases in Cuba and Panama -- specifically from Guantanamo and the Panama Canal area -- for alleged joint exercises with the armies of Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, and Caribbean countries.

Bayardo Arce bases his report on studies made by Nicaraguan military analysts and U.S. specialists who have said "from a technical point of view" the joint maneuvers could signal the beginning of an invasion of Nicaragua. He said as a result of these military exercises the region's situation has become "very tense."

For these reasons he considers the meeting to be held by the Contadora and Support Groups in Bariloche, Argentina next week "very opportune," as this will "halt the U.S. intention of intervening in Nicaragua!" Arce said that during this meeting new formulas will be submitted for the peace process of the convulsed Central American region.

Bayardo Arce was emphatic when he stated the supposed U.S. invasion of Nicaragua "is not a Daniel Ortega theory," and recalled that high-ranking Reagan administration officials have on several occasions stated the need to supply funds to the "counterrevolutionaries" who are fighting to topple the Sandinist regime, and thus avoid sacrificing "our boys."

Arce said that after 5 years of publicizing this situation, many might think the danger does not exist, but the Reagan administration has "a latent" intention to intervene in Nicaragua, and offered as an example the military maneuvers planned by the U.S. Army.

Regarding the "Irangate" affair and the alleged participation of Panamanian businesses in the handling of funds for the contras, Commander Bayardo Arce said "really we do not have information on Panamanian-based companies being involved because practically the whole investigation has been handled by the Americans. They revealed through their investigations the magnitude of this case." However, Arce added, "what is clear is they tried using not only Panama, but many countries."

According to the Sandinist leader, what has been confirmed is the origin of the arms that were on board the Pia Vesta, a vessel captured in Panama. This had been a mystery because no one knew "who the previous owner was and who the present owner of all this armament is."

Arce said "now everything regarding the Pia Vesta is clear as it was one of the CIA covert operations to supply weapons to the counterrevolutionaries, and logically, they tried using Panama to illegally transport the weapons."

At present, the weapons are in the hands of the FDP [Panama Defense Forces], and the ship is anchored in Balboa Port by order of the Customs Office.

In conclusion, commenting on the feud between the Catholic Church and the Sandinist regime, he said several weeks ago government officials and the church had begun a number of talks to end the differences that currently separate them.

TWO HONDURAN SOLDIERS DESERT, REQUEST ASYLUM

PA142158 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2037 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Sandinist authorities today presented to the public two youths who defected from the Honduran Army. They have asked to be allowed to stay in Nicaragua.

The soldiers, who belonged to the 5th Battalion stationed in Mosquitia, Honduras, admitted they deserted from the Honduran Army in mid-March because they were afraid they would be "put in prison and killed" on military orders. They made these statements at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. The men identified themselves as Angel Benjamin Lopez, 16, and Alex Danilo Castro, 17. They told the press they defected because they had been charged with being "Sandinist informers." They denied this. Lopez said: "We had a lot of trouble with Honduran Second Lieutenant Amilcar Moncada, who threatened to put us in prison and kill us." He added: "All this was a lie."

Oscar Tellez, director of the Foreign Ministry's Central American Department, reported that the Sandinist government agreed to let the two Honduran soldiers stay in Nicaragua "for humanitarian reasons." The deserters, who said they were recruited 15 months ago, added that they defected to Nicaragua because "this was the solution closest at hand." To do so, they crossed the river that separates Honduran Mosquitia from Nicaraguan territory. They surrendered with their regulation weapons, M-16 rifles, at Santa Fe.

Lopez and Castro said they do not want to return to their country because they were "mistreated in the Army and were paid only two lempiras daily, and Nicaraguan rebels fared better than they." The two soldiers also reported that U.S. military men training the Honduran Army and the nearly 500 contras who are stationed with the 5th Army Battalion on the banks of Rio Dulceno, Gracias a Dios Department, and that the contras carry out raids in the Nicaraguan border area. Lopez said he wants to stay in Nicaragua to work, while Castro said he wants to go to Belize, where he hopes to get a job.

D'ESCOTO ARRIVES IN BENIN FOR VISIT 8 APR

AB091513 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Reverend Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, the Nicaraguan foreign minister, began a 3-day friendly visit to Benin today. He was welcomed at the Cotonou International Airport by Guy Landry Hazoume, his Beninese counterpart.

Miguel D'Escoto spoke in an interview he granted to newsmen upon arrival about the internal situation in his country and emphasized the sociocultural aspects of this internal situation in Nicaragua. He also talked about the framework within which his visit to Benin falls.

[Begin recording] [D'Escoto in Spanish fading into French translation] I am happy to be here in Benin. I came to make contact with this country which is a very active member of our movement of nonaligned countries. Indeed, this is the first visit I am paying to your country but it is not going to be the last [words indistinct].

Our visit falls within the framework of the solidarity policy my country is initiating with African countries that have always supported us. International solidarity has never been denied to the heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people.

Africa is playing a very important role in the struggle we are waging in Nicaragua. This is why we would like to express our gratitude to the Beninese people, and through them to all the African peoples we shall not have the opportunity to visit.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, what is the exact situation in Nicaragua within the framework of this revolutionary struggle you are waging to progressively restore a peaceful society where justice and social progress will prevail?

[D'Escoto] [Passage indistinct] We, the people of Nicaragua, want to be on friendly terms with the Americans. We do not want a situation in which stronger nations impose themselves on or threaten the weaker ones. We want a situation in which the mutual respect of our sovereignties prevails. We want freedom or death. As you may know, the so-called contras, who are trained and entirely financed by the CIA, were recently condemned by the International Court of Justice. They used to be 18,000 strong. But now, there are not more than 5,000 troops.

You also know that owing to its obstinacy, the United States continues to wage war against our heroic people, and it is currently facing a certain number of difficulties on the international scene. I can assure you that in spite of all the difficulties we face in the field, we have made very remarkable progress. In the area of literacy, for example, we have been able to teach a large portion of our population how to read. In the field of health, we have succeeded in eliminating polio and yellow fever and have also reduced the infant mortality rate. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Departs Nation 10 Apr

AB110947 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] President Kerekou received three dignitaries in his office this morning. They are Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Comrade Miguel D'Escoto; His Excellency (Saliou Yaho), Niger's ambassador to Benin; and His Excellency (Hanz Badjer), FAO representative in Benin. Comrade Miguel D'Escoto, who has ended his visit to Benin, went to greet and to thank the head of state.

[Begin recording] [D'Escoto in Spanish fading into French translation] The purpose of our visit is to deliver the fraternal, cordial, and revolutionary greetings of President Daniel Ortega, president of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, and of all the Nicaraguan people, to President Mathieu Kerekou, who is not only a friend to the people of Nicaragua but also a friend to all peoples. We also wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the people of Benin for the firm way they supported us in our country's struggle. It was a very warm visit. We noticed that President Mathieu Kerekou is a man of good sense, who fully understands the reasons for the struggle of the people of Nicaragua because he himself is leading a state which is struggling for its independence.

[Reporter] Comrade Minister, what is the current domestic political situation in Nicaragua?

[D'Escoto] I can say the current political situation in Nicaragua is very stable. One can say it is more stable today than it has been in the past on the Latin American continent. We elected a president in a democratic way, through the will of the people. We have a party whose popularity is increasing steadily. We organized free general elections and also drew up the first political constitution -- a truly democratic constitution.

On the military field -- I am talking about the military situation because, as you are aware, the United States is waging war against our people -- I can say Reagan's mercenaries have totally failed. We are calling on the United States to abandon its illegal and immoral policy so we can devote ourselves to the major task of national construction. We are equally calling on the United States to accept the decision of the International Court of Justice. [end recording]

Our guest's friendly visit ended today. After his various discussions, the Nicaraguan foreign minister left Cotonou late this afternoon. He was seen off by his Beninese counterpart, Guy Landry Hazoume. While in the VIP Lounge of the Cotonou Cadjehou International Airport, Comrade Miguel D'Escoto spoke to Constant Agbidjinoukou about the contacts he made with leading authorities of the party and the state.

[Begin recording] [D'Escoto in Spanish fading into French translation] I am very happy about the visit I have just paid to your country. I can describe it as a total success. The climax of my stay here was the meeting I had with the president. I saw in him an extraordinary leader and a great friend to Nicaragua, a great friend and lover of just causes, a great leader of the nonaligned, as well as a great defender of peace. During our visit, we also took the opportunity to exchange ideas with our counterpart, Guy Landry Hazoume. We hope the bonds of friendship existing between our two countries -- bonds of friendship already very sincere and cordial -- will be further strengthened. Thank you. [end recording]

Before being received by the head of state this morning, the Nicaraguan foreign minister held a news conference with the International Relations Club of the Beninese Journalists Association. Comrade Miguel D'Escoto took this opportunity to talk about the ideology and the program of the Sandinist Front and explained his own relations, as a reverend father, with the Vatican.

In response to questions concerning the Sandinist front, the foreign affairs minister specified that the front is not a coalition of several political factions. It is a nonideological vanguard party which draws inspiration from Nicaraguan realities and was formed after a long period of gestation of the secular struggle of the Nicaraguan people. Comrade Miguel D'Escoto then added that the front's program is based on the people's fundamental right to assume their destiny, establish a regime based on justice, give justice to the people, and provide them with the basic means to work and maintain good health. Reverend Father Miguel D'Escoto, who is a member of the central committee of the Sandinist front, is not on good terms with the Vatican which has prohibited him from celebrating the holy sacrament. The Vatican, wants to make me a traitor to my country, but as long as my services are needed, I will remain a minister, Miguel D'escoto said, adding that he is attached to the church and Christ, but he is equally attached to his people.

Although there are many religious people in the various governing bodies, Nicaragua is a secular state that respects the freedom of worship, and the right to believe or not to believe. What the Sandinist front wants is for militants, regardless of their color or religion, to defend the people's cause and fight with humility in defending that cause, the minister stressed.

Tackling Nicaragua's relations with the United States, Miguel D'Escoto stressed that both countries' diplomatic missions remain open in the two capitals; however, the American Government continues to have destabilizing aims toward the revolutionary government of Nicaragua by financing the contras, he stated. With figures to support what he is saying, he pointed out that the ranks of the contras are in disarray. From 18,000, the membership of the contras has been reduced to only 5,000 in spite of the financial support of the United States.

The foreign minister ended his news conference by thanking authorities of the party and state, as well as the Beninese people, for their solidarity with the Sandinist front and the Nicaraguan people.

CEMA DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS 8 APR

PA100236 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] It was reported today that a CEMA delegation arrived here to participate in the third meeting of Nicaragua's working group on agriculture, the food industry, and fisheries. The meeting begins today and will continue until Friday at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center, where the participants will discuss an increase in the socialist organization's credits to the Nicaraguan Government.

The delegation, which is led by Soviet representative Vladimir Gorbachev, will meet with Nicaraguan officials to discuss economic projects that will be carried out here with CEMA's aid. The delegation will also visit important Nicaraguan production centers.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

PA141756 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] Comrade Salvador Mayorga, deputy minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, yesterday said the signing of a cooperation agreement between Nicaragua and CEMA member countries "is part of the Nicaraguan people's efforts to defend the revolution, their sovereignty, and their right to live under better conditions than in the past."

Mayorga stated it is through CEMA that socialist countries contribute to Nicaragua's development and to lessen the effects of agression. He added that within the framework of that collaboration, Nicaragua finds support to carry out very important projects.

Nicaragua's proposal -- which was accepted by the CEMA member countries -- was centered on projects that are vital for its economic development and the nutritional level of its population.

Some of the projects are already underway, while others are being studied. One of them is to promote cocoa production, for which the plantation sites are being selected.

K. I. Malinov, who heads the Bulgarian delegation to the CEMA's third session, said there is a climate of mutual cooperation among all the CEMA member countries and "we are convinced we will continue developing that cooperation."

Malinov stressed his gratitude to the Nicaraguan delegation for its contributions to the signing of the agreement. He advocated "new creative accomplishments in Nicaragua's struggle to attain its economic independence."

Among the participants in the meeting are CEMA secretary Cecilia Argudin; Soviet delegate Vladimir Gorbachev; Jose Llanura of Cuba; Rvediger Schoot of the GDR; Toth Enre and Brok Byorgy of Hungary; and K. Senesi of Czechoslovakia. [all names as published]

MALMIERCA SAYS TROOPS TO REMAIN IN ANGOLA

MB121509 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1458 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Harare April 12 SAPA -- Cuba will not withdraw its troops from Angola until SWA/Namibia is granted its independence, the Cuban foreign minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, said there today.

Addressing a press conference on arrival at Harare airport, Mr Malmierca said an agreement signed between Cuba and Angola provided that troops remained in Angolan territory to prevent acts of aggression against that country, according to a report by ZIANA, Zimbabwe's semi-official news agency.

"The independence of Namibia will in turn allow the withdrawal of a certain part of the Cuban forces in the northern part of Angola," he said. As long as the "apartheid South African regime" exists, he said, there will always be threats against Angola and the rest of the Frontline States.

"Therefore a certain part of the agreement between Cuba and Angola is that Cuban forces will remain in Angolan territory to prevent aggression against the country," said Mr Malmierca.

He denounced the United States and South African efforts to link the implementation of the United Nations Resolution 435 on the independence of SWA/Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Cuba would also continue to give aid to Frontline States through technical training programmes. "We are trying to develop our co-operation with the Frontline States," he said. "We believe this is a contribution that has to do with awareness that the struggle should not only be aimed at rejecting apartheid."

Mr Malmierca is in Zimbabwe to attend a meeting of the nine member Nonaligned special committee on Palestine aimed at speeding up an international peace conference to solve the Middle East crisis. [ep]

GRANMA EYES NEW YORK TIMES ITEM ON STROESSNER

PA141621 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 87

["What the Press Has To Say" feature]

[Text] Recently, THE NEW YORK TIMES regarded the outrages the U.S. ambassador to Paraguay suffered on 9 February, when he was attacked with tear gas grenades by the police, as offenses against decency, the United States, and the laws regulating the treatment of diplomats. The U.S. paper's editorial added that when Ambassador Clyde Taylor protests the barbarous actions of the dictator with the longest time in power in South America, and defends his harassed democrats, he voices the U.S. people's best values and most sensitive interests. Finally, the newspaper described Stroessner as a relic and said of him: He trapped his country in the world of 1954 and imposed a state of oppression on his people. Reporter Nidia Diaz, who published an article about this in GRANMA, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, said the commentary of the influential U.S. paper makes one think carefully. Here is Diaz' article.

All the epithets used against the Alfredo Stroessner regime are true, the article in the daily GRANMA states. A single, simple detail makes those truths slip down the gully of turbid intentions before THE NEW YORK TIMES has taken 33 years to admit what the whole world has been denouncing for three decades: the Paraguayan people are victims of one of the most brutal dictatorships on the Latin American Continent.

And why now, the slowest of observers would ask, is the U.S. press attacking Stroessner? Why is a Yankee ambassador, historically a guest of honor in Paraguay, a victim of such violence? Why is Stroessner bad now, but 33 years ago was the pampered man of Washington? Those are the truths THE NEW YORK TIMES will never reveal, despite the alleged freedom of the press reigning in the United States.

It is proper to ask oneself, the Cuban newspaperwoman says, to whom this U.S. newspaper is referring when it states diplomat Clyde Taylor is defending the harassed democrats of the Stroessner regime. Is it perhaps Antonio Maidana, missing for the past decade from the regime's dungeons? Or the tens of thousands of peasants who are systematically massacred because they attempt to regain lands wrestled from them by Yankee landowners with the support of the Stroessner guard's bayonets? Or the secondary schoolgirl arrested on a street in Asuncion, the Paraguayan capital, for distributing declarations of solidarity with her dismissed teacher? Or the workers and professionals, who in numbers of more than 400,000 demonstrated in 1986 against the miliary dictatorship and were always violently repressed for demanding their labor and citizen rights?

The article published by the Cuban daily GRANMA states that the harassed democrats of Paraguay to which THE NEW YORK TIMES refers are not those cited above, but others: those who are willing to seek, in collusion with Washington, a restricted democratic opening; those who favor an alleged peaceful and orderly transition from dictatorship to democracy as an alternative to a popular movement beginning to organize with the force of 33 years of ignominy, pain, and blood.

The commentary by newspaperwoman Nidia Diaz published by GRANMA describes the harassed Paraguayan democrats to which THE NEW YORK TIMES refers as the political representatives of those economic sectors that oscillate between the struggle against the dictatorship and conciliation with it; those who for being pro-American lean toward negotiation and compromise now when Stroessner's ship is sinking.

Paraguay is a strategic point for Washington as a base of aggression on the South American Continent. There are Yankee rapid deployment detachments in that country, and there is a secret underground base with secret radar installations in the Paraguayan Chaco.

The Cuban daily GRANMA comments finally that this is why the truths recently set forth by THE NEW YORK TIMES are half truths because since 1954 U.S. governments have fed Stroessner, who has become a relic in their hands which they are now attempting to put in the museum of oblivion to prevent the force of the masses from dumping him into the trash heap of history.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TO WORK IN SOVIET FAR EAST

FL101626 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] The first group of construction workers who will join the Union of Cuban Enterprises in the exploitation of wood in the Soviet Far East, were scheduled to arrive in the city of Khabarovsk during today's predawn hours, Havana time. Forestry activities -- that is, felling of trees and its subsequent processing -- have not begun yet at this very important project. Construction of shelters and other necessary social projects are the only activities being conducted at this time so that the essential conditions are created upon the arrival of the future taiga conquerors.

There are already 200 of our fellow countrymen, including the group of construction workers who should have arrived in Khabarovsk early this morning who are in the Soviet Far East taking the first steps of this monumental project.

Some 100 more construction workers will leave for Khabarovsk in May and 160 others will go in July to take advantage of the summer's favorable conditions and work on basic projects. (Subpai) -- which means ray of sun -- is the small mountain town in the Soviet Far East that has already started to bubble with the presence of men and women from the Caribbean.

JOINT GDR COMMISSION VIEWS HIGHER EDUCATION

FL141817 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Cuba-GDR joint commission for cooperation in the field of higher education has begun at the University of Las Villas. The joint commission will review the 1986 activities in this field and the perspectives for future bilateral cooperation.

EL PARAISO ATTACK SHOWS DUARTE 'NOT WINNING WAR'

PA141240 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The large-scale actions the FMLN executed during March and April refute recent assertions of the regime and its U.S. ally regarding a presumed weakening of the rebel ranks. As will be recalled, the government's top circles have lately launched a deceptive campaign to pretend the guerrillas have lost ground. A few days ago, prior to the successful rebel attack against the El Paraiso headquarters, Colonel Caceres, military head of the Chalatenango Department, bragged that he had the entire zone under control and that the guerrillas would have to either surrender or be killed. Col Caceres himself, however, stood surprised when guerrillas penetrated the zone under his control and completely annihilated an elite Army brigade, destroyed barracks, and inflicted more than 600 casualties on his forces. In view of this, the military chief had no other choice than to admit he could not even support the 4th Infantry Brigade to try to avoid defeat.

Despite the thousands of men mobilized right after the action, the Army also could not prevent the guerrillas' simultaneous operations in most of the country's departments or the boycott against the regime's economy, which paralyzed more than 90 percent of land transportation. These actions are part of a new rebel campaign called "For the Achievement of Peace, Bread, Work, and Freedom, All People Take Up Arms."

These evident victories against the ever more deteriorated counterinsurgency plans have forced the Army High Command and its U.S. advisers to admit the scope and power of the guerrillas' operations. The chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, General Adolfo Blandon, has admitted the number of soldiers and officers killed during the attack against the main garrison was high. In addition, U.S. Central America specialist (William Bliobrand) has said these combined rebel operations prove Napoleon Duarte's regime is not winning the war. This is an old truth. It is no longer a secret that, despite the more than $770 million the United States gives to the Salvadoran regime yearly for its counterinsurgency plans, the Army has neither the strength nor the support to defeat the guerrillas. This is particularly influenced by rifts in the Army which originate in the regime's economic, social, and military policy, especially the forceful conscription of young men, who have voiced their disagreement with the aggressive plans encouraged by the U.S. Government. Although the Salvadoran puppets will continue to daydream, the truth is obvious.

While the FMLN attacks and destroys small, medium- size and large-size military targets, the regime's Army has not been able to shake the rebels' foundations.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PCD HEAD CRITICIZES CREDITORS

PA131618 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party [PCD], has charged his country's creditors want to impose the conversion of the foreign debt into foreign investments. Narciso Isa Conde said the Dominican Republic has had to put on a straitjacket imposed by the IMF, the World Bank, and the United States.

The Dominican Communist leader said in remarks to PRENSA LATINA that those credit organizations want to impose the privatization of state enterprises, including 12 of the 16 sugar mills.

The Dominican Republic has a foreign debt of $4.3 billion.

BALAGUER MEETS WITH UJC, PARTY MEMBERS IN MOA

FL131310 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, has said today's higher education can contribute to the process of rectifying errors by elevating its standards when forming the country's technical cadres.

Balaguer made this statement in Moa, Holguin Province, during a meeting with UJC [Union of Young Communists] and PCC members at the Higher Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. This is the second meeting of this kind to be held in the country. This meeting was called to discuss matters concerning the education process of the higher education students in Cuba.

EASTERN SECTOR WORKS TO HOST NEXT PARTY CONGRESS

FL131530 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] As further proof that the eastern sector of the country benefited from the political and administrative division, the residents of Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba will work, side by side, in an attempt to win the honor of hosting the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. This was learned during a meeting in Guantanamo attended by Juan Esteban Lazo Hernandez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Matanzas Province Executive Bureau; and Raul Michel Vargas, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Guantanamo Province Executive Bureau. Lazo reported in depth in his speech on the efforts being put forth by Santiago de Cuba residents to win the honor of hosting the fourth congress and stressed these efforts are based on fulfilling the goals established during the thrid congress and carrying out the party's plan. These efforts will also include an increase in the economic development of this eastern province. The party leader said special emphasis is being given to improve the situation in the mountain areas and work is being done to bring electricity to those areas by 1990. The power will be supplied by the national electric power system and by the smaller hydroelectric plants.

During the events on the occasion of International Worker's Day, 1 May, the Guantanamo Province Executive Bureau will announce the eastern sector's goals to be met to win the honor of hosting the fourth congress and the tasks to declare itself ready for phase two of the defense in July 1990. The organizing experiences gained during the 23d anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks will be included in the eastern sector's goal.

CASAS EVALUATES CADRES AT VILLA CLARA MEETING

FL102335 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 87

[By Eduardo Cruz Dominguez]

[Text] Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, has presided over a plenary meeting in Villa Clara to analyze the application of cadre policies in provincial state enterprises.

The fundamental topics discussed by the participants included the evaluation of cadres, their selection, movement, and cadre reserves. In reference to this, it was stressed that evaluations are not made with the necessary rigor and the cadre reserves are not sufficient in size and a considerable number do not have the required cultural background or age. Other topics discussed included the cadres' performance and discipline in the information and control systems.

Casas Reguerio, who also headed the cadre policy work group, spoke during each of the topics debated and stressed the need for objective evaluations and the preparation of a good reserve of leaders, who can guarantee the possibilities for the year 2000.

DOMENECH BRANDS ENERGY CONSERVATION 'BATTLE'

FL111555 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Joel Domenech, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the National Energy Commission, said we must be aware of the fact that our economy must grow, but development does not mean we must use more fuel. Development is based on energy conservation and efficiency. Domenech made this statement during the second municipal meeting on energy held in Ciego de Avila. Domenech said energy conservation is not a campaign but rather a battle; it is a constant battle that must be waged by our people. The outcome of the battle will depend on how much we can save.

The participants at the Ciego de Avila meeting reviewed the work done by the National Energy Commission in 1986 and reported on the work being done in the field of energy conservation in Ciego de Avila. The construction and production sectors in Ciego de Avila were praised for their energy conservation efforts.

MID-LEVEL SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT COMPUTER COURSES

FL140224 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The study of computer techniques will be introduced in mid-level education during this 5-year period since the computer is essential to scientific-technical development. Using the country's economic development strategy as the basis, it has been decided to teach computer classes in all mid-level education centers up to the basic secondary school. The programs will conclude in 1990.

The new subject, already introduced in higher education, is also taught at 16 pre-university exact sciences institutes and in almost a hundred centers in other areas of education. The Education Ministry is engaged in a serious effort to train the teachers who will give these courses. Selected for their disposition, all teachers will have higher degrees. Most of them are specialized in physics and mathematics. They are taking 2-month courses in handling microcomputers and preparing study programs designed to develop logical thought and independent work in the students.

Fifty percent of pre-university schools, 40 new technology institutes, and 15 basic secondary schools will have computer labs this coming school term.

FINANCE OFFICIAL EXPLAINS NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

FL111514 Havana Radio Network in Spanish 1214 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Rodrigo Garcia Leon, minister president of the State Committee for Finance, met with finance specialists in Camaguey Province.

Garcia spoke to them on the need to rid the accounting system of all that taints, distorts, and deviates it, and defined the principles of accounting by stressing that it is an instrument for recording all financial transactions and for verifying and reporting the results of a company's operations. During the meeting with the Camaguey specialists, the minister president of the State Committee for Finance explained that the new accounting system was drafted in accordance with the needs of a society that is represented by its organizations. One of the measures implemented in response to those needs was the reduction of the number of accounts.

The Camaguey specialists approved of the changes being made to the current accounting system. They said the new system simplifies their work.

CTC ISSUES MESSAGE ON GREETING 1 MAY FETE

FL141647 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] has called on all its members to commemorate this years International Workers Day by performing an in-depth process of rectifying errors and by struggling against the negative trends that, undoubtedly, hinder the construction of socialism in our country. The message was published today by GRANMA and TRABAJADORES. The CTC message adds that the Cuban workers and their unions are putting forth their best efforts to greet 1 May in a worthy manner and with measurable results.

The message states in another paragraph that we will commemorate International Workers Day with the same patriotic fervor with which our people commemorate the day of the militia member and the immortal Giron victory, the first big defeat suffered by Yankee imperialism in Latin America. The message says we will advance, without tiring, in our process of rectifying errors and in the struggle against the negative trends as requested by the party [Communist Party of Cuba] and Fidel.

For all these reasons, everyone present at Revolution Square, and in every province, march with a combative spirit on 1 May.

BALAGUER COMMENTS ON CENTRAL AMERICAN PROBLEM

PA101230 Bogota EL SIGLO (VISTAZO INTERNACIONAL Supplement) in Spanish 5 Apr 87 pp 6c, 7c

[Report on interview with President Joaquin Balaguer by unidentified VISTAZO INTERNATIONAL reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] As things stand now, the Central American problem is hard to solve. At present, the problem is only viewed in terms of the Nicaraguan conflict, that is the only aspect considered. Nicaragua is merely the detonator of the conflict. Likewise, there can be a short-term solution. The roots of the problems of Central America and the entire Caribbean zone must be found in the social injustice the peoples of those areas have endured for so many years and in the moral, economic, and political decomposition of most of the regional leaders. As long as these factors are not taken into consideration during negotiations and the search for possible solutions to the Central American problem, the conflict will continue. Neither the Contadora group nor any other entity will find the solution without analyzing the origin of the armed confrontation." [quotation mark as published]

Dominican Republic President Joaquin Balaguer used those harsh and unencouraging words to comment on the Central American problem. Balaguer, 73 years old and completely blind, has been reelected constitutional president of the Dominican Republic.

Apparently, the confrontation with the former president [Salvador Jorge Blanco] is a serious problem. It certainly is for Balaguer. He feels the greatest problem in Central America and the Caribbean is political demagoguery. On this matter, he said: "My blindness, age, and possible ailments due to age are not a problem. The problem is political demagoguery. As long as the people do not learn to unmask the charlatans, little can be done. Another problem is time. There is so much to do and I have so little time left...."

[Reporter] Mr President, in Europe, and specifically in Spain, there is some interest in how a blind person can rule his country.

[Balaguer] I have been in office for 5 months. My performance since taking office is the best answer I can give you. I must say it is not easy without having a good team, that is, people I fully trust and who are qualified. I have encountered the expected difficulties. My greatest problems do not stem from my visual impairment, but rather from the lack of vision and honesty of my predecessors.

[Reporter] What are the greatest problems you found when you took office?

[Balaguer] Moral decomposition in all sectors of the population, economic deterioration, and the administrative corruption which has reached levels that are unacceptable incomprehensible in a country like ours. Our foreign debt with the World Bank is $4 billion in addition to $185 million in the European market. We have paid -- for the last time -- several times the amount owed in interest. Paying that debt is beyond the ability of this country. Another problem is political and social inertia. [paragraph continues]

I particularly feel that the greatest ailment of this country is not economic but moral. There is widespread moral decomposition and corrupt politicians are propitiating it.

[Reporter] Do you agree with Peru's stance regarding payment of the foreign debt?

[Balaguer] I have stated that the foreign debt is unpayable. We are unable to pay under the terms that were agreed on. We have decided to pay the World Bank $11 million, and we have already paid the interest. However, we are demanding that the Paris Club and the World Bank make readjustments. We want to pay, but we need more workable conditions. They should not smother or paralyze our development. If they refuse to renegotiate, there will be problems because we could not pay under the terms agreed upon, even if we wanted to.

[Reporter] Some debtor countries agree that the solution is to create a common debtors' front. Do you endorse that idea?

[Balaguer] We do not endorse that idea because that would entail a confrontation with our greatest or chief protector, the United States.

[Reporter] Now that you have mentioned the United States, political experts state that Latin American problems stem from dependency on the United States. How do you feel about that?

[Balaguer] I do not agree with that idea at all. I believe that our countries are indeed dependent on the United States. The United States cannot be blamed for this, as its causes are unrelated to that country. U.S. influence is not harmful, quite the contrary. Thanks to the United States, we are marching toward a democracy. Dependency does not prevent us from setting up our development plans and facing political, economic, and social problems. The fact is that most politicians in the area use the U.S. image to justify their political actions. That is why I mentioned before the need to end demagoguery. For example, most U.S. loans and aid to our countries are not invested in development programs. Where does that money end up? Who is forcing the recipients of that money to divert it from its objective? There is much demagoguery regarding the negative U.S. influence on the continent.

[Reporter] What is your position regarding the Contadora Group?

[Balaguer] Everybody supports the Contadora Group. The only criticism raised against it, and perhaps it is not entirely fair, is that it has not been able to reach a peace agreement, pacify the zone, or bring about physical [fisico] and military disarmament. Mostly, it has also not achieved moral disarmament. One must not forget that there are grave problems in Central America because there are serious injustices regarding land tenure, social distribution, etc. I believe that if the two superpowers do not reach an agreement, the Central American conflict will not be solved. I have no confidence that a solution will be found, as this situation is a mere reflection of the confrontation between the United States and the USSR.

[Reporter] Where do you think this conflict may lead us?

[Balaguer] We cannot rule out the possibility that the conflict could be extended to the Caribbean zone. The OAS has not exactly adopted a very active stance. I do not think that the Contadora Group or anything else could prevent the problem from spreading. Among other reasons, this is so because the root of the problem -- social injustice that affects the region and the Caribbean -- is being ignored. [passage omitted]

PRESIDENT PREFERS POWER COMPANY IN PRIVATE HANDS

FL132111 Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has declared that the government is willing to accept the establishment of private firms to supply energy for national consumption because they offer better service than the Dominican Electricity Corporation [CDE]. Illustrating his assertion, the president named the Falconbridge Dominicana Company, which has a power plant that functions almost perfectly and does not suffer the (?interruptions) that public plants are prey to.

Interviewed in LA CABUYA, LA VEGA, Dr Balaguer said the reason is simply that it is properly maintained and private management is superior to public management. The president stated that the CDE is a very disorganized company and extremely wasteful. In addition, it has been incapable of giving maintenance to its plants although, in his opinion, the plants are sufficient to meet the country's power needs. To this effect, the president said that it was preferable to allow the private sector to get involved in supplying electricity to the country.

The president also said that the proposal to lay a cable from Puerto Rico has encountered technical problems but that this is an issue that must be studied. It is not, however, impossible to solve because many countries have this kind of cable.

GRENADA

ALEXIS CONFIRMS RESIGNATIONS OVER 'RETRENCHMENT'

FL132302 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 13, CANA -- Two Grenada Cabinet ministers and a parliamentary secretary resigned today over differences with government on its plans for mass retrenchment in the civil service.

Attorney general, minister of legal affairs and labour, Francis Alexis, tonight confirmed that he and two other parliamentary colleagues, Education Minister George Brizbrizan and junior Minister Tillman Thomas, had handed their resignations to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon.

Alexis said he and Brizan had stepped down following an ultimatum today from Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and Thomas had followed suit in solidarity. The resignations become effective at midnight.

The attorney general confirmed that at today's weekly cabinet meeting Blaize called on Brizan and himself to publicly apologise for their parliamentary strictures on the governments unemployment policies or resign.

At issue were last week's parliamentary criticisms by Alexis and Brizan, an economist, of the government's cost-cutting plan to slash the civil service by 1800 over the next year. Alexis saw the strategy as inappropriate, in the face of unemployment, which he said could range between 25 and 40 percent.

"I believe too sincerely in what I said in parliament to even think of withdrawing those views," declared Alexis in his resignation letter, the text of which was made available to CANA.

"The only honourable thing to do in the event is to tender to you excellency, my resignation from the offices of attorney general and minister of legal affairs and labour.

"But, in the conflict between my clear conscience and what I am asked to do by the prime minister your excellency will perceive that I have no choice but to let your excellency have my resignation."

Alexis said that there are no immediate plans by the three to form a new political party.

"Our most immediate concern is to stop the retrenchment", he said.

Asked how they intended to achieve this, he said: "We will be having a round of public meetings on the issue. We will be putting out literature, and we would get people to call on their parliamentary representatives to move the government from its present course."

He said they would "continue to sit in parliament and look after the interest of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique."

Brizan, in his letter to Sir Paul, said that he had spoken in parliament in the public and national interest on the issues and the matter of apology is out of the question.

"The issue of apologizing is out of the question because I gave genuine and sound advice to deal with these ... difficult issues", he said.

"And, therefore, I am left with no other alternative but to tender my resignation. Apologize or resign, I resign", he added.

Alexis, Brizan and Thomas will put their case to the public at an outdoor meeting Wednesday night in Alexis' St Georges south-east constituency.

BLAIZE SAYS MINISTERS VIOLATED AGREED PRINCIPLE

FL141451 Bridgetown CANA in English 1345 GMT 14 Apr 87

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 14, CANA -- Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has stoutly defended his unemployment policies and accused three members of his government who resigned yesterday over the issue, of violating the agreed principle of collective cabinet responsibility.

Blaize went on radio last night to explain the departure from his administration of Attorney-General Dr Francis Alexis, Education Minister George Brizan, and Junior Minister for Legal Affairs Tillman Thomas, who had voiced concern about cost-cutting public service lay-offs in the face of unemployment they estimated was over 25 per cent.

He as much as confirmed the story told by Alexis and Brizan that they resigned rather than accede to Blaize's demand that they publicly apologise for their parliamentary criticisms last week of the governments plans to retrench 1800 public workers over the next year and its failure to conclude pay talks with three unions.

The Grenada leader said the Brizan/Alexis structures "have quite clearly been contrary to cabinet decisions in which the two ministers participated," and that they had "patently abrogated the long-established principles of cabinet collective responsibility and this obviously could not be tolerated."

Blaize said the ministers were well aware that government had to borrow money to pay civil servants' salaries in November and December last year and again in February and March this year.

What the three ministers were failing to accept, he said, was that a government which failed to take fiscal measures to bring its finances under control was guilty of "reprehensible conduct and gross irresponsibility in dealing with the affairs of the nation."

"Retrenchment in the public service is not a matter of choice. It is a need and absolutely necessary for the country to survive," he maintained.

"We very much regret doing it, having to pursue it, but there is really no viable alternative. The government remains deeply concerned about the high level of unemployment."

The Prime Minister referred to what he said was government's promise to provide retrenched workers with new skills.

"We already have in progress training and placement programmes and are negotiating further training programmes," he said.

The government had been able to create some 8,000 jobs in the last two years and bring unemployment down from 40 to 20 percent since taking office in December 1984, he said.

"We have provided the atmosphere for the creation of still more (jobs) in building, construction, manufacturing, especially in garments and tourism, and we remain committed to improving our performance in this area," he said.

"We have not been negligent of the need nor have we been sparing in our efforts to further create significant [words indistinct] training that would be necessary," he added.

Blaize said his government had already granted licences for the development and creation of new job opportunities in several rural areas, as well as on the sister island of Carriacou.

The Prime Minister described as regrettable the fact that government and the three public sector unions had not resolved their outstanding wages dispute.

"We stand ready and willing to conclude the negotiations within the limits of the public finances available," he remarked.

Blaize has offered the unions an EC3 million dollar (1 EC dollar equals 37 cents US) covering 1985-86 but the civil servants are asking for a further 2.5 million dollars.

The Prime Minister accused Alexis, Brizan and Thomas of trying to make political capital of these issues and said their resignations came as no surprise, since newspapers as far north as Jamaica had for some time now been carrying reports about several expected resignations from his New National Party (NNP) administration.

Brizan and Alexis were the leaders of two moderate parties that in August 1984 merged with Blaize's older Grenada National Party (GNP) to form the NNP and contest general elections four months later.

The resignations leave Blaize with a 9-6 majority in the 15-member Lower House of Parliament.

SCOON HEARS BRIZAN'S REASON FOR RESIGNATION

FL141511 Bridgetown CANA in English 1412 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] St Georges Grenada, April 14, CANA -- Economist George Brizan, who resigned yesterday as Grenada's Education Minister, essentially over the government's labour policies, says finding jobs must be the administration's number one priority in the face of unemployment he estimated at 33 per cent.

His assertion, in the face of the government's plan to lay off 1800 public workers over the next year, came in his letter of resignation, submitted yesterday to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon. Following is the text of Brizan's letter:

April 13, 1987
His Excellency, Governor-General
Sir Paul Scoon
Governor General's House
St Georges

Dear Sir,

During the past two and a quarter years I have strived to give dedicated service to the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique in whatever area I was asked to serve.

When I was given the portfolio of agriculture, I found it on the ground, and with the assistance of the ministry's staff and the cooperation of the farmers and fishermen, it was put firmly on foot.

In the Ministry of Education and Culture, we have embarked on a programme to rebuild the morale of teachers and other workers in that sector.

I have enjoyed working and serving in the interest of the Grenadian people. In all of this, service always took precedence over everything else.

In recent times, certain economic issues had arisen over which I gave sound advice continuously.

One of the issues was "retrenchment of over 1800 workers in the public service." I have advised the Prime Minister and cabinet over and over that there should be a programme of training and redeployment of workers into special projects, so that workers, the majority of whom have families, would not suffer hardships. I said this, fully aware that unemployment was high and that the private sector, which is being looked upon to provide the jobs, was ill-prepared and not in a position to employ some 1800 workers.

Furthermore, the National Economic Council of which the Prime Minister is chairman and which includes three ministers and representatives from the private sector, in its July 1986 official national report, has estimated unemployment to be 25 percent of the work force; it went further to identify unemployment as the most critical problem to be addressed by government.

In our manifesto for the 1984 general elections, we wrote and we all subscribed to the following: Unemployment in the country is high and it is rising. At present about 33 out of every 100 Grenadians who are able to work cannot find work.

It is a source of social instability. As we step into Grenada's new future, the opportunity of every Grenadian to have a job must be our government's first priority. Only through secure employment will Grenadians be able to regain this personal dignity and participate in our society.

Having subscribed to this, I have found it difficult to accept putting 1800 persons out of work when it is government's responsibility directly and indirectly to help create jobs.

Over and over, I have called in cabinet for a re-examination of the new fiscal policy, to see if it is achieving its goals, as retrenchment is related to this; but the appeals have been in vain.

Moreover, my experience in cabinet has been that many matters are not fully and extensively discussed and the best opinions taken, and then decisions arrived at. There is always an effort to ensure that the chairman's views prevail, even when the results appear to be disastrous, and on many occasions disastrous they were.

The second issue is that of the impasse between the unions representing public workers and the government.

I have advised that this should have been solved with rapidity immediately after the 1986 budget. And I have called on many occasions since for a quick solution, even if both government and unions have to yield some ground. As you know, the impasse continues and certainly this is not in the national interest.

Thirdly, I have asserted that since unemployment is our number one national problem and is more important than even fiscal balance, all resources should be organised to reduce and solve it based on a sound national plan for curing unemployment.

When parliament met on Friday, 10th April, I spoke on the above issues in very much the same way as they have been expressed above.

On Monday 13th April, the Prime Minister asked that I make a public apology for the way in which I spoke on the issues, as it ran counter to government's policy, or resign.

Clearly, I cannot apologize for speaking in the national interest and advising that unemployment be reduced, the unions issue be settled, and that retrenchment be re-examined.

Therefore, I am left with no other alternative but to tender my resignation as Minister of Education, Culture, Cooperatives and Fisheries as of 14th April, 1987.

I assure you that I will continue to serve the people of my constituency of St Georges North East with even greater zeal, and the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique with every greater diligence and conscientiousness.

May God bless us all.

Yours sincerely, George Brizan.

HAITI

SOLE CIVILIAN CNG MEMBER JACQUES FRANCOIS DIES

FL141158 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The only civilian on the governing council, which has ruled Haiti since last year, has died. A lawyer, who was foreign minister in Haiti's transitional government, Jacques Francois, died after several months of illness.

His death leaves two military officers ruling Haiti: Lieutenant General Henri Namphy and Brigadier General William Regala. Elections are scheduled in November.

AFP Reports Further

PA132030 Paris AFP in Spanish 1937 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 13 Apr (AFP) -- Jacques Francois, the only civilian member of the Haitian Civilian Government Council (CNG), died today in Port-au-Prince, an official source announced.

Jacques A. Francois, 79, was a member of the CNG since 21 March 1986, after having been the foreign minister of the first government following the fall of Duvalier.

Francois was very well-known in Cap-Haitien, the second most important city of the country about 260 km from Port-au-Prince. He was considered a moderate and a nationalist and never had any ties with either Duvalier.

After having studied law, he became a magistrate in 1946, and in 1950 held diplomatic posts in Rome and Bogota. In 1953, he was appointed ambassador to the OAS in Washington.

He was the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry in Haiti, as well as minister of the presidency and of labor from 1955-56, and ambassador to Cuba in 1956. In 1957 when Francois Duvalier rose to power, he retired from politics.

His successor, probably a civilian, will be appointed within the next 48 hours, according to observers.

The CNG, a provisional organization of three members formed in February 1986 following the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier, is presided over by Lieutenant General Henri Namphy. The third member of the CNG is General William Relaga, who also serves as minister of interior and of national defense.

Successor Appointed

PA141816 Paris AFP in Spanish 1739 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Luc Hector, the president of the Supreme Tribunal of Haiti, on Monday was appointed a member of the Civilian Government council (CNG) by President General Namphy, it was reported here.

Luc Hector, the third civilian member of the CNG, replaces Jacques Francois who died Monday.

The 69-year-old Luc Hector is from Jacmel, a city in southeastern Haiti, about 110 km from Port-au-Prince. He held posts in the judicial branch for over 32 years.

The new Constitution, approved by an overwhelming 99.81 percent on 29 March, provides that in the event of a vacancy in the Presidency of the Republic, the president of the Supreme Tribunal must take the position, it was said in Port-au-Prince.

According to many observers, the appointment of Hector strengthens the "legalistic" option proposed by General Namphy.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the official funeral for Jacques Francois will take place next Monday in Port-au-Prince, and the following day in Cap-Haitien, his hometown.

ST LUCIA

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON ELECTION RESULTS

FL091744 Bridgetown CANA in English 1546 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Castries, St. Lucia, April 9 CANA -- Monday's narrow electoral win by the United Workers Party (UWP) hardly reflects the confidence St. Lucians have in the party, Prime Minister John Compton says.

Although the UWP defeated the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) by only one seat, the party received almost 53 per cent of the valid votes cast, compared with only 38 per cent for the SLP, Compton said yesterday at the swearing in of his new cabinet. [passage omitted]

Compton noted that in the areas of high economic activity, such as the Castries basin and farm belt, the support for the ruling party was heavy. This is a clear indication of the support which the UWP continues to command, said Compton, who has ruled for 20 of the last 23 years.

Compton said that, armed with this confidence, he intended to pursue the implementation of the party's development programme with the utmost vigour. He admitted that with the party's slender parliamentary majority things will not be easy, and he called on St. Lucians to consolidate the gains which the country had made, a uniting behind the government which they had freely elected.

He invited the opposition to enter into dialogue with the government, to be constructive in performing its constitutional duties and remember that we have all been elected to serve St. Lucia and its people.

PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED; GOVERNOR GENERAL TO STEP DOWN

FL132119 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 13 Apr 87

[By Ernie Seon]

[Excerpt] Castries, St Lucia, April 13, CANA -- The week-old St Lucia Government, concerned that its slender one-seat parliamentary majority was stifling the island's development prospects, today announced fresh general elections "within the shortest possible time."

Governor General Sir Allen Lewis made the announcement at the state opening of Parliament, following last Monday's poll, which saw Prime Minister John Compton's incument United Workers Party (UWP) scrape home with nine of the 17 opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), led by businessman Julian Hunte.

Sir Allen announced the immediate dissolution of parliament, with the elections expected to take place within the next three weeks.

Said Sir Allen: "My government has discerned what appears to be a stand-off and a wait-and-see attitude from important investors with whom it has been dealing. Such an attitude can only impede the development of St Lucia and inflict damage which can have lasting effect on our social and economic structure.

"More importantly, it can polarise the society into warring political factions and erode the political and industrial stability upon which the progress of the last five years has been built.

"My government has therefore, after weighing all the factors, decided it is the best interest of St Lucia and all St Lucians that the people of St Lucia should again be consulted and the issue of a strong government returned to them for determination.

"In accordance with the Constitution therefore, and acting on the advice of the prime minister I shall dissolve Parliament forthwith and issue writs for general elections to be held within the shortest possible time permitted by the relevant laws."

Under St Lucia law elections must be held not less than 21 days after Parliament is dissolved.

The head of state, who also announced he was leaving office at monthend, said the actual election date would be announced later. [passage omitted]

BOUTERSE ANNOUNCES NEW POLITICAL PARTY

FL131905 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Commander Desi Bouterse has announced the launching of a new political party [no further identification provided]. This organization will be open to members and sympathizers of the February 25th Movement, which is chaired by Bouterse. The new party, which will be launched early in June, wants to bring together all positive achievements of the revolution in order to form a solid basis for the future, so Bouterse said.

He continues by saying that the revolutionaries want to recognize that those who gave their lives for the defense of the country's sovereignty have not died in vain.

Last Saturday [11 April] Commander Bouterse spoke at the meeting with representatives [words indistinct]. The delegates reacted enthusiastically when the commander made the announcement of the new party.

ARMY REPORTS ON PROBLEMS IN JUNGLE COMMANDO

FL132032 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] A spokesman for the National Army has stated that more and more members of the so-called Jungle Commando are deserting the gang because of infighting and the lack of food and medicines. The deserters also complain about the inferior treatment given them by the mercenaries who fight alongside Ronnie Brunswijk. These hired killers show little respect for the residents of the interior who say that they are treated like stupid animals. During interrogation, some of the deserters declared that the Jungle Commando is divided into different sections which have little or no contact with one another. Their main activities seem to be the protection of marijuana fields in the interior.

The Army spokesman also said that foreign journalists who visited the east of Suriname were robbed of their cameras and wristwatches by Gang members. These journalists have found excessive use of drugs among the Gang Members. Some of these journalists mockingly referred to the Jungle Commando as the junky commando of Brunswijk.

RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA TO BE EXPANDED

FL101831 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Henk Heidweillerr feels that Holland would do good work towards a political policy regarding Suriname. The sterile relationship between the two countries has to end now, said Heidweiller, who supports restoration of relationship with Holland. According to Heidweiller, Suriname's foreign policy will be aimed at expanding and tightening the relationships with Latin American countries in the next 8 months.

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL; BOUTERSE NOTES AGREEMENT

FL131847 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] As of today education at the high school level was normalized. Education at some secondary schools was, howefer, somewhat disrupted.

The Federation of High School Students Organizations last Friday, [10 April] after talks with the government, decided to cooperate for the reopening of secondary and high schools.

Secondary school students, who didn't hold classes in solidarity with their high school colleagues, were obviously not informed about the agreement.

According to the chairman of the federation, education at the secondary level was stagnated due to a lack of communication. The secondary school students aren't organized and they had expected to hear from a student media over the weekend, said the chairman. This didn't happen, which caused uncertainty among the secondary school students this morning.

At the end of last week, representatives of student organizations reached an agreement with the government delegation for the reopening of schools and the normalization of education at some 88 secondary and high schools. Education at these schools was disrupted for almost 2 months.

Last Friday the student leaders met with the colleagues. It was then decided to separate education from politics and go back to school with the hope to make up for time lost.

Government leader Bouterse spoke briefly on the student question when he addressed the record board last Saturday. Even though he was happy with the agreement reached, he said his inside was ached [as heard] to see that while young soldiers defend Suriname's sovereighty with their life, others in their age group behave contrary to the country's interest.

Bouterse mentioned [word indistinct] of other countries in schools [words indistinct]. Despite all this, the government leader was convinced that together with the students, a better and sovereign Suriname will be realized.

INTERIOR CUT OFF FROM FOOD, MEDICAL AID

LD100253 Hilversum International Service in English 0230 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Church sources in the Surinamese capital, Paramaribo, say that part of the population in the interior of the country is completely cut off from medical and other forms of aid.

Apparently the medical posts in the interior have been without supplies for several weeks. On occasions the Army also blocked the transport of food and medicine to prevent them from falling into the hands of the rebels. The Army also jams radio contacts between missionary doctors and medical centres in the interior.